Tuesday, May 26, 2026 No 145 ₹7

DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Cine employees to boycott Ranveer

Move follows actor's exit from 'Don 3'

Page 12

Govt ignores red flags, okays Rs 39k-crore garbage deal

Finance dept raises cost, long-term pact with single firm

DH SPECIAL

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Finance dept's caution

- Inflated cost of contract even before start of work
- Annual escalation clause of 5% built into agreement for 30 years
- Contracts will create a "vendor lock-in" situation
- Questions need for long concession period when government itself is providing land

Ignoring stern warnings from its own Finance department over inflated costs, steep annual escalations and a long-term lock-in period with a single concessionaire, the Siddaramaiah-led government has cleared two mega solid waste management contracts, costing a whopping Rs 39,437 crore, for Bengaluru.

The approval means that Delhi MSW Solutions Ltd, which is a sister concern of Hyderabad-based Ramky Group, will take up processing and disposal of the city's 5,200 tonnes of waste, for the next 30 years, single-handedly.

Internal government notes, accessed by *DH*, show that the Finance department had raised a total of four strong objections to the proposal when the Urban Development department had placed it before the state Cabinet last week. The Finance department went on to suggest the formation of an expert committee to examine the proposal.

Despite these observations, the Cabinet proceeded with the approval.

The inflated cost of the contract even before the work could begin is among the primary objections flagged by the department.

In the north package covering Yelahanka, Dasarahalli, East and West zones, the Urban Development department had estimated the contract to cost Rs 17,982.90 crore.

But, the bidder has quoted Rs 21,444 crore, which is an increase of nearly Rs 3,461 crore over the original estimate.

Similarly, in the south package covering RR Nagar, Mahadevapura, South and Bommanahalli zones, the original estimate stood at Rs 15,065 crore.

▸ **Garbage deal, Page 4**

'PRIVATE' MOVE

Tata Power applies for distribution licence in K'taka

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

After more than ten years, a private company has applied for a distribution licence from the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC). While the rules allow for operation of private power distribution companies, Karnataka has never had a private power distribution company.

Entry of a private player could hit the operations of the ESCOMs, given that the cumulative loss of all the five power supply companies in the state is close to Rs 40,000 crore.

"The entry of a private player will definitely increase the expectations among people and the initial interest might draw some of our customers, leading to a reduction in consumer base for us," a senior Bescom official said.

For customers, private companies may prove beneficial. "Private companies will definitely offer competitive pricing and will also provide tariff certainty, which is a problem with the state-run ESCOMs, especially for industrialists," M G Prabhakar, energy expert and former advisory council member, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC), told *DH*.

▸ **Tata Power, Page 4**

Bengaluru City Corporations

•North •South •East •West •Central

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka

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Chief Commissioner
Greater Bengaluru Authority

Kids in orchestras, spas: SC seeks Centre's response

Terms situation 'serious', issues notices to NCPCR, NHRC

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the Centre, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on a plea seeking an absolute ban on the employment of children and adolescents in orchestras, dance troupes, massage parlours and spas.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi heard senior advocate HS Phoolka, representing the child-rights collective 'Just Rights for Children Alliance' (JRCA).

Phoolka said that girls as young as 10 and 11 were being employed in orchestras and dance bars. "For spas and massage parlours, some states have prescribed 18 years as the minimum age," he said.

Taking note of the submissions, the bench issued notices to the Union Ministries of Labour and Law and Justice, terming the situation "serious". Notices were also issued to the NCPCR and NHRC.

'LEGISLATIVE GAP'

- PIL highlights 'legislative vacuum' leaving rescued children vulnerable
- Says girls as young as 10 employed in dance troupes, massage parlours
- SC issues notices to the Union Ministries of Labour and Law and Justice

The plea sought issuance of a writ of mandamus or appropriate directions to the central government to exercise its powers under Section 4 of the Child and Adolescent Labour Act, 1986, to include the employment or performance of children below 18 years in orchestras, dance bars, dance troupes, nautanki performances, massage parlours, spas, salons, or any similar establishments that depict children in an obscene or exploitative manner in Part A of the Schedule to CALPRA, thereby categorically prohibiting such employment.

The petition alleged that these sectors had evolved into "clandestine fronts" for organised trafficking, sexual exploitation and forced labour of minor girls across the country.

Just Rights for Children is the country's largest network working on child protection and child rights, with more than 250 NGO partners across India.

The petition contended that this legislative gap has enabled organised trafficking networks to operate such establishments as fronts for the commercial sexual exploitation, forced labour and abuse of children below 18 years of age, particularly minor girls.

The network sought the transfer of massage parlours from Part B to Part A of the Schedule, and the inclusion of orchestras, dance bars, dance troupes, spas, and other similar establishments in Part A under CALPRA, to ensure an absolute prohibition on child labour in these sectors.

Emphasising the gravity and scale of the issue, Rachna Tyagi, General Counsel of Just Rights for Children, said, "The employment of children in such establishments is not merely labour exploitation, but often a gateway to trafficking, sexual abuse, and organised criminality."

The petitioner further urged the apex court to direct the NCPCR to formulate a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of children found working in such establishments.

Panel on Aravallis must consult experts, public: SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday directed that the expert committee to be constituted for defining the Aravalli hills and ranges must consult domain experts and all stakeholders, including the public at large, to ensure their views are heard.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi, however, clarified that the committee's composition cannot be unwieldy.

"We cannot have a composition of 30 or 40 people, as it will become unmanageable," the SC observed.

Senior advocate K Parameshwar, amicus curiae in the matter, pointed out that a major flaw in the previous exercise was the lack of public consultation. He suggested that the court direct the committee to devise a proper mechanism for inviting suggestions.

The CJI agreed, noting that the committee must hear everyone. "There will be different stakeholders, and sometimes good suggestions come from common man," he observed.

The bench said the core committee should ideally comprise five to seven members with domain expertise, and may associate with other specialists such as forest experts and geographers for limited roles as required.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati submitted that common names suggested by the Central Empowered Committee & amicus could be finalised for panel.

12 nations take part in military exercise in Meghalaya

GUWAHATI, DHNS: More than 400 military personnel from at least 12 nations are undergoing a joint military exercise at the Umroi military station of the Indian Army in Meghalaya.

The maiden multi-national exercise began on May 20 and is being participated by personnel from countries like Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Bhutan, Nepal, the Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

"Over the past three days, the mixed teams have trained in semi-mountainous and jungle terrain, undertaking rock craft, ambush and counter-ambush drills, slithering, jungle lane shooting and bus intervention. Sniper and AK-203 firing competitions have also been conducted to enhance operational proficiency, confidence and professional understanding among the participants," the army said in a statement on Monday.

The army said the exercise, named as PRAGATI 2026, is a testament to shared commitment towards regional peace, security and cooperation.

The two-week exercise will focus on counter-terrorism operations in semi-mountainous and jungle terrain. The training will include joint planning exercises, tactical-level drills and coordinated operations designed to improve adaptability, endurance and tactical proficiency of participating troops.

PADMA GLORY

(Left) German ethnomusicologist Dr Lars-Christian Koch receives Padma Shri. President Droupadi Murmu confers on the Padma Vibhushan to veteran actor Dharmendra posthumously, received by BJP MP Hema Malini on his behalf, in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

Malda gets Bengal's first holding centre; nine 'Bangladeshis' lodged

MALDA, PTI: West Bengal's BJP government on Monday operationalised its "detect, delete and deport" policy, with Malda becoming the first district to set up a holding centre for illegal foreign nationals, where nine suspected Bangladeshis have been housed.

The holding centre, set up at Chandan Park in English Bazar and currently the only such facility in Malda district, began functioning after nine people—including three women and six minors—were brought there from Gazole's Pandua area on Sunday, amid heightened security arrangements, senior district police officers said.

The facility has been placed under layered security cover with CCTV surveillance, deployment of 12 police personnel, civil defence staff and civic volunteers, along with arrangements for food and upkeep, an officer said.

Another police officer in Malda said the facility has been created to temporarily accommodate foreign nationals detained on charges of illegal entry or lack of valid documents.

"The holding centre has started functioning. At present, nine Bangladeshi nationals are being housed there. Necessary verification and legal procedures are being carried out. The detainees are being treated in accordance with prescribed legal norms," the officer said.

The development comes barely two days after the state Home and Hill Affairs Department's Foreigners' Branch directed all district administrations to establish "holding centres" for "apprehended foreigners" and "released foreign prisoners awaiting deportation or repatriation", giving institutional shape to one of the BJP's most politically resonant themes in Bengal.

Though framed as an administrative exercise linked to Union government guidelines issued last year, the move appeared to indicate that an issue long used by the BJP in campaign speeches and border rallies had now entered the machinery of governance.

Rubio visits Taj, gets lesson in Persian history from Iran

NEW DELHI, DHNS: As US Secretary of State Marco Rubio visited the Taj Mahal in Agra on Monday, Tehran reminded him about the role of the architects, calligraphers and master craftsmen of Iran in building the 17th-century mausoleum in India.

Rubio and his wife Jeanette visited the Taj Mahal on the third day of his tour to India, even as intense negotiations continued between Tehran and Washington, DC, to work out a deal to end the war, which began with the attacks launched by Israel and the US on Iran on February 28 and the retaliatory strikes by the Persian Gulf nation on the US allies in its neighbourhood.

The US Secretary of State and his wife posed for photos on the white marble bench in front of the Taj Mahal.

"If Rubio knew the history or architecture, he wouldn't have posed for a picture here," the Consulate General of Iran in Hyderabad posted on X, along with a picture of the couple, reminding the US secretary of state that Emperor Shahjahan had got the monument built as a tribute to his wife Mumtaj, who had her ancestral roots in Persia.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio with his wife Jeanette at the Taj Mahal in Agra on Monday. AFP

It also underlined that the emperor had brought in artisans from Persi–modern-day Iran–to build the mausoleum in India.

"This monument was built out of love for the Iranian wife of the emperor, crafted by the genius of Iranian architects," Tehran's consular mission in Hyderabad added on X. "Meanwhile, his (Rubio's) government today threatens to wipe out Iranian civilisation."

It accused the US of insulting other civilisations around the world.

"The goal here ultimately, the ultimate goal is (to ensure) that Iran can never have a nuclear weapon," Rubio had said on Sunday.

DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

RCB, GT gear up for IPL Qualifier 1

The face-off promises fierce battle between Challengers' batting and Titans' pace attack

RCB vs GT: Head to head

4 won GT | 8 Mats | 4 won RCB

This season: Played: 2: RCB: 1; GT: 1

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All eyes on Cong top brass meeting with Siddu, DKS today

Meet likely to provide clarity on leadership tussle

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar left for New Delhi to meet the Congress high command on Tuesday, which is widely expected to provide clarity on their leadership dispute and the long-pending reshuffle of the Cabinet.

Siddaramaiah left for the national capital with his posse of ministers G Parameshwara, Dr HC Mahadevappa and KJ George. Minister Satish Jarkiholi left separately.

"I've been invited to Delhi. There's a meeting at 11 am. I don't know the subject. I got a call from (AICC general secretary) KC Venugopal about the date and the meeting," Siddaramaiah said.

Earlier in the day, Shivakumar said he would go "only if called". By afternoon, however, he said he, too, was leaving for Delhi. "During certain situations, I have to go. I'm going," he said. Shivakumar left after offering prayers to his deity Ajjayya.

> "I've been invited to Delhi. There's a meeting at 11 am. I don't know the subject. I got a call from KC Venugopal about the date and the meeting
>
> **Siddaramaiah** Chief Minister

According to sources, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and Venugopal met a few days ago and decided to put an end to the "confusion" over leadership in Karnataka.

Speculation over a power-sharing agreement between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar has led to one-upmanship between the two, keeping the Congress' pot boiling ever since it came to power in 2023.

While Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar maintained that they had no clue about what would be discussed, Jarkiholi said the "main agenda" is the "confusion" within the party.

"We're going with the hope that there will be clarity. At least the process has started," he said.

There is no clarity on whether or not Sonia Gandhi will attend the meeting on Tuesday.

▸ Cong meet, Page 5

4th hike: Fuel prices up by Rs 7.5 in 10 days

Transport, logistics costs set to rise

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

State-run oil marketing companies increased the petrol price by Rs 2.61 per litre and diesel by Rs 2.71 a litre on Monday, the fourth hike in just 10 days, which will push up transportation and logistics costs, adding to inflationary pressure.

With the latest revision, the cumulative hike in petrol and diesel prices since May 15 stands at around Rs 7.5 per litre. It was hiked by Rs 3 per litre on May 15 followed by 87-91 paise per litre hike on May 19 and May 23.

In Bengaluru, petrol price jumped to Rs 110.93 per litre, while diesel price rose to Rs 98.80 a litre.

In Delhi, petrol price crossed the Rs 100 per litre mark for the first time in over four years. A litre of petrol now costs Rs 102.12 in Delhi, while diesel price has jumped to Rs 95.20 per litre.

The Rs 102.12 per litre petrol price in the national capital includes Rs 16.59 value added tax (VAT) and Rs 4.45 dealer commission, data shared by Indian Oil Corporation showed.

▸ Fuel prices, Page 8

Bengaluru prices

₹110.93 per litre Petrol	₹98.80 per litre Diesel

Cong protest on May 30

The Karnataka Congress will hold a state-wide protest on May 30 against the recent fuel price hike, accusing the BJP-led Modi government of "looting" the public through repeated revisions.

Details on Page 7

Cab, auto rides and airport trips to become costlier

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Commuters in Bengaluru are feeling the pinch of the hike in fuel prices, which have gone up four times in a row since May 15, with auto and cab fares increasing on both ride-hailing platforms and on the ground.

A working professional commuting from MG Road to Rajarajeshwari Nagar said that while an auto ride for the distance would usually cost between Rs 230 and Rs 300, drivers were now demanding between Rs 700 and Rs 1,200 during evening peak hours.

On average, commuters flagged a fare hike of 40-50%. The commute to the airport also remains impacted.

▸ Cabs, Page 8

'No lessons learnt': SC pulls up NTA over NEET paper leak

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday expressed disappointment that the National Testing Agency (NTA) had failed to learn from previous instances of paper leaks, as it sought responses from the Centre, NTA and CBI on pleas seeking the replacement of the agency with a more robust and autonomous body for conducting the NEET-UG examination.

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe directed that copies of the petitions be served to Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and other respondents. The court asked the NTA to file an affidavit by Thursday detailing compliance with its 2024 directions.

> There was a committee, which made some recommendations, and they were accepted. We want NTA to file an affidavit on the steps taken for compliance with the recommendations
>
> **Supreme Court**

"It's sad that they have not learnt their lessons. The matter travelled to this court earlier also. There was a committee, a monitoring committee which made some recommendations. We want NTA to file an affidavit on the steps taken for compliance with the recommendations suggested by the committee," the bench said.

The court was hearing a plea filed by the Federation of All India Medical Associations (FAIMA) through advocate Tanvi Dubey, among other similar petitions, which it tagged together for hearing.

The bench also directed the NTA to file an affidavit on the status of the monitoring committee constituted on November 14, 2024.

▸ NTA, Page 5

SC rejects TN's Mekedatu petition, Page 8

Suspecting Rs 100-cr misuse, govt to dig deep into guarantee beneficiaries

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Congress government has decided to scrutinise the beneficiary lists of its guarantee schemes, suspecting misuse of Rs 100 crore in the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, which provides a monthly assistance of Rs 2,000 to the woman head of every eligible family.

Deputy CM D K Shivakumar on Monday said the government was planning to review the beneficiaries' list in every taluk.

"We need to verify if the schemes are reaching the genuine beneficiaries. Some beneficiaries have passed away and around Rs 100 crore was found to be misused as some beneficiaries had provided phone numbers belonging to others. So, during the discussion, there was a suggestion to collect beneficiary records afresh," he said.

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka alleged the government was trying to downsize the beneficiaries.

▸ Guarantees, Page 5

MID-AIR SCARE

300 rescued from Gulmarg gondola

Hundreds of tourists were safely rescued on Monday after the Gulmarg gondola cable car service in north Kashmir's Baramulla district developed a technical snag, leaving passengers stranded mid-air for hours, officials said. They said nearly 300 tourists were trapped inside the gondola's cabins after the cable car system abruptly stopped functioning.

P 12

FLARE-UP

Prohibitory orders imposed in Bhatkal

The Uttara Kannada administration has imposed prohibitory orders in Bhatkal after tension erupted over the reconstruction of a religious structure, which had been removed for NH expansion. The BJP alleged some Muslim youths damaged the structure, while the leader of a Muslim outfit said they had no objection to building it at the original site.

P 4

BIG TICKET

Toyota to invest Rs 1,200 crore in KWIN City

Toyota Kirloskar Motor on Monday signed an agreement with the Karnataka government for setting up its 'BizIntel Hub' at KWIN City, near the Kempegowda International Airport, with an investment of Rs 1,200 crore. Toyota's COO Sudeep Dalvi, and S Selvakumar, Principal Secretary, Department of Industries, exchanged the agreement in the presence of the CM.

P 15

Stock markets jump over 1 pc, P15 | Hoteliers hint at steep price rise, P7 | Consumers to curb non-essential travel: Survey, P7 | Gig workers devise their own ways, P7

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Bowring wall collapse: FIR filed against contractor

BENGALURU, DHNS: Commercial Street police have registered an FIR against contractor ASR Traders and others in connection with the collapse of the retaining wall at Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital, following directions from the Chief Secretary.

A police officer said that based on a complaint by Chandru S D, Executive Engineer, Health and Family Welfare Engineering Wing, Arogya Soudha, a case has been registered against contractor ASR Traders on charges of negligence.

"We have yet to issue a notice to the contracting company to verify whether it exists, and efforts are on to trace the accused contractor," the officer added.

Dumping of construction debris near the hospital premises had allegedly weakened the structure. The report recommended criminal action against the contractor and disciplinary proceedings against four Health Department engineers.

Man cheated of Rs 6 lakh in online scam

BENGALURU, DHNS: Scammers impersonating bank officials allegedly cheated a senior citizen in West Bengaluru of Rs 6.06 lakh, officials said.

According to the police, the suspect sent a message on WhatsApp to the 81-year-old retired victim from Binnyapet, claiming to be a manager of IndusInd Bank.

In the message, the scammer claimed that the victim had applied for a "Senior Citizen Pension Debit Card" and would send him a link to share his details. As per the FIR, once the victim clicked on the link, the scammers gained access to his bank accounts and drained Rs 6.06 lakh from them.

A case has been registered. Officials said the public should refrain from clicking on unsolicited links and noted that bank officials never share scheme-related details through WhatsApp, especially senior managers.

Residents flag mining impact, land disputes during phone-in

BENGALURU, DHNS

Issues related to land records, mining impact, pending land surveys and alleged encroachments on government land emerged as the most common grievances raised during a *Prajavani* phone-in programme with Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner G Jagadeesha on Monday.

G Jagadeesha

For nearly 90 minutes, the DC answered calls on a range of civic and revenue-related issues. However, the highest number of calls came from residents of Sulivara in Tavarekere Hobli, who alleged that ongoing stone quarrying was affecting their daily lives.

Several callers, including Bharath, Krishnagowda, Marappa, Raju, Arun Kumar and Yogish, claimed that mining operations were taking place near a playground, a cemetery and land allotted to BMTC in Survey No 60. Residents alleged that dust generated by quarrying had made living conditions difficult and raised concerns about respiratory illnesses, livestock deaths and crop damage. They also complained that compensation had not been paid for agricultural losses.

One of the callers, Marappa, questioned whether the government was keen on saving rocks over the lives of farmers, highlighting the impact of mining on the yearly harvest in the area.

Responding to the repeated complaints, Jagadeesha said officials from the Department of Mines and Geology would inspect the site. "Mining must be carried out legally. If it is authorised, measures will be taken to minimise inconvenience to residents. If it is unauthorised, action will be taken," he said, adding that he would personally review the issue if required.

Apart from quarrying, Sulivara residents also sought surveys and boundary demarcation of government land in the village. The DC assured them that officials would conduct field inspections and surveys and take appropriate action based on the findings.

Land-related grievances formed the bulk of the remaining complaints. Many sought help with inheritance-based mutation, or pouthi khata, pending land regularisation applications and delays in property surveys. Others alleged encroachments on government land, lakes, burial grounds, temple properties and village commons.

The programme also saw complaints regarding pension delays, voter list corrections, court-linked property disputes and alleged irregularities in government land transfers. Jagadeesha urged citizens to provide survey numbers and supporting documents, and noted that digitisation of revenue records had made it easier for people to access certified copies and apply for services online.

KEY GRIEVANCES

- Stone quarrying near residential and public-use areas in Sulivara
- Dust pollution, respiratory concerns, livestock deaths and crop damage
- Pending surveys and boundary demarcation of government land

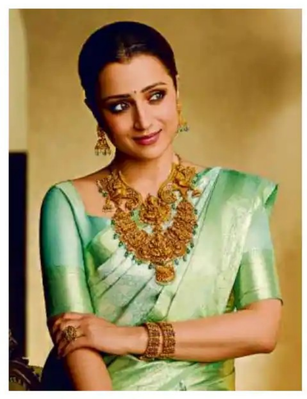
GRT Jewellers announces Gold Exchange Mela

Established in 1964, GRT Jewellers has grown into one of India's most trusted jewellery brands, celebrated for its exceptional craftsmanship, timeless designs and enduring customer trust. With exquisite collections in gold, diamond, platinum, silver and gemstones, GRT continues to serve generations of customers through over 65 showrooms across south India and Singapore, while staying committed to authenticity, innovation and community progress.

Reinforcing this commitment, GRT Jewellers has announced its much-awaited Gold Exchange Mela, encouraging customers to exchange their old gold and be a part of a larger movement towards strengthening India's future. As part of this limited-period initiative, you can receive an additional Rs 150 per gram on old gold exchange, making it the perfect opportunity to upgrade treasured jewellery into stunning new designs for weddings, celebrations and special occasions.

With millions of Indians already choosing to exchange their old gold at GRT Jewellers, the initiative also reflects a collective step towards reducing the nation's reliance on gold imports and promoting a more sustainable gold economy.

G R 'Anand' Ananthapadmanabhan, Managing Director, GRT Jewellers, said, "Gold has always been a valuable part of Indian families and traditions. Through our Gold Exchange Mela, we are encouraging customers to unlock greater value from their old gold while also contributing towards a stronger and more self-reliant India."



G R Radhakrishnan, Managing Director, GRT Jewellers, added, "At GRT Jewellers, every initiative is designed around customer benefit and long-term value. The Gold Exchange Mela not only helps customers upgrade to beautiful new jewellery with added benefits but also inspires a meaningful movement where every exchange contributes towards India's future."

Curated by DH Brandspot

Real-time tracking gives ambulance services faster route

50-seat facility to operate round the clock

BENGALURU, DHNS

In medical emergencies, the time between a distress call and ambulance arrival can be critical. To reduce delays and improve coordination, Karnataka's 108 ambulance service is being managed through a technology-enabled Command and Control Centre that tracks calls, ambulances and patient information in real time.

The Command and Control Centre is equipped with end-to-end technology to ensure the timely dispatch of ambulances across the state. Calls and ambulance dispatches are completely handled by operators at the centre.

When an emergency call is answered by an operator, the caller's location is immediately detected and the information is automatically filled in on the portal.

The nearest ambulance to the incident location is then dispatched. The person who calls for the ambulance receives the ambulance details and live location immediately.

Each ambulance is equipped with a Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) device to track its movement. Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) in the 108 ambulances can check for the nearest hospital and decide where to take the patient. Operators can also make decisions based on the nature of the case.

A GPS-enabled monitor at the Command and Control Centre shows ambulance locations in real time, helping operators dispatch the nearest vehicle during emergencies.

The map system available at the centre and inside the ambulances displays all nearby health facilities, including private hospitals, if they are closer than government hospitals. With the patient's approval, ambulances can also transport patients to private facilities.

The command centre can monitor whether ambulances make unnecessary stops or fail to start immediately and can communicate directly with ambulance staff when required.

The tie-up with e-Sanjeevani helps guide EMTs in providing treatment inside the ambulance before reaching the hospital. Hospitals are also notified in advance to make the necessary arrangements.

When EMTs check a patient's vitals, the information is uploaded on the Digital Patient Care Record (PCR) through MDT tablets.

In the near future, operators will be able to see the caller's number and name, which will save time otherwise spent on entering the details manually.

According to the Standard Operating Protocols, operators must answer calls within five seconds, and PCR vitals should be recorded from the incident scene till hospital handover.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao at the inauguration of the 108 Command and Control Centre in Bengaluru on Monday.

CM launches command centre

BENGALURU, DHNS

The 108 Command and Control Centre, meant for the operation and maintenance of emergency ambulance services across the state, was launched on Monday by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao. The centre is aimed at increasing government involvement and accountability.

The command and control centre, a first-of-its-kind facility in the country, is interoperable with other important public service platforms, including the pan-India emergency response support system 112, 14416 Tele-MANAS, 1902 Janaspandana, 181 women's helpline, 1098 child helpline and e-Sanjeevani.

The command centre, located in Basaveshwaranagar, is equipped with the Global Positioning System (GPS) details of health facilities and ambulances. Currently, Karnataka has 715 108 Arogya Kavacha ambulances and 1,000 state sector ambulances.

Speaking at the inauguration, Siddaramaiah said, "The 108 Arogya Kavacha service has been active in the state since 2008. Emergency treatment is highly essential in many critical situations, including road accidents, childbirth and cardiac emergencies. If treatment is provided during the Golden Hour, the chances of patients surviving are much higher. Around 80% of people have survived when they received treatment during the Golden Hour."

Dinesh Gundu Rao said, "Under the slogan 'One call to us, emergency service to you', the Health Department of the Government of Karnataka has undertaken this initiative. Until now, the 108 services were run by private organisations and there were several issues. We also studied the system in Singapore and set to work on equipping it well to set up the system."

The system was initially implemented on a pilot basis in Chamarajanagar. The government-owned organisation C-DAC has developed the required software.

The command centre is a 50-seat call centre, with operators working round the clock to ensure ambulances are dispatched 24 hours a day.

Shopkeepers count losses as Kamaraj Road shuts

ARNABI MALLICK
BENGALURU, DHNS

The 60-day closure of Kamaraj Road, owing to the construction of a new RCC culvert near Nala Cross by the Greater Bengaluru Authority, has affected businesses on the stretch.

DH spoke to a cross-section of shopkeepers about the issues they are facing as a result of the closure.

Dinesh Sharma, owner of Delhi Bhavan Sweets, told *DH*, "We have barely had any customers since morning. How are we supposed to survive like this for two months?" Shop owners also said the road had been closed three times now.

"The authorities always close this stretch for one construction work or the other, and the work is never completed on deadline. Sangam Road is also closed, but they still haven't finished the work," said Prasanna Hegde, another shop owner in the area.

The road, which was closed for similar work on May 18 last year, was opened only after residents and traders staged a dharna. "There is no prior notice, no mention of the nature of construction, the name and contact details of the contractor or any other information. So who do we reach out to?" said Pradeep Kumar, president of the Kamaraj Road Traders, Temple and Residents Association.

Kamaraj Road closure for culvert work hits businesses on the stretch.
DH PHOTO/ARNABI MALLICK

"We have several old temples here. People are unable to visit them because of this closure," said P S Chandrashekhar, secretary of the association.

Residents alleged that the police informed them that the closure was a trial run. "We have rented the space for our shop. How are we supposed to pay the rent if there are no customers?" said Suresh Sharma.

Smooth traffic flow

Sahil Bagla, DCP (Traffic) East, said there are parallel roads for commuters and traffic movement has remained normal, including during peak hours.

A senior police officer from the Shivajinagar Traffic police station said traffic has been moving smoothly between 6 am and 8 pm. "If traffic movement slows down at any point, we will prohibit parking on both sides of particular roads to ease congestion," the officer said.

Two autorickshaw drivers murdered

BENGALURU, DHNS: Two autorickshaw drivers were allegedly murdered in two separate incidents in Bengaluru, officials said on Monday.

According to the police, Syed Shafi, 36, from Rajak Sab Palya in Bagalur, was stabbed to death following an alleged drunken altercation.

Investigations revealed that at around 1.30 am near Meena Bar on the main road in Abbigere, the suspect, Darshan alias Das, was at the spot with his friends for drinks.

When they stepped out to urinate after the bar closed, they saw Shafi in the autorickshaw with another person. Under the influence of alcohol, the suspect allegedly picked a quarrel with Shafi and stabbed him with a dagger on the right side of his chest. Shafi was declared dead at the hospital, following which the Chikkabanavara police registered a case and launched an investigation.

In another instance, a suspected financial dispute led to the murder of a 25-year-old autorickshaw driver near Ramanasandra in Kumbalagodu. Investigations revealed that the body of Rakshith N was found dumped in an empty pit.

According to the police, the suspect, Mohan Pasha, allegedly picked a quarrel with Rakshith and, along with his relative Hasan, assaulted him with wooden sticks and smashed his head with a stone, killing him on the spot. They then disposed of the body.

Kumbalagodu police have registered a case and launched a probe.

Faulty streetlights in your area? Here's who you can call

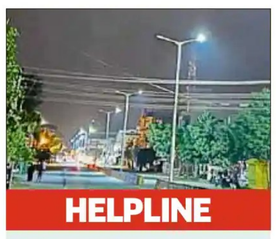
BENGALURU, DHNS: With several neighbourhoods in West Bengaluru raising concerns over dark stretches and poorly lit roads, the Bengaluru West City Corporation has issued dedicated helpline numbers for residents to report faulty or non-functional streetlights directly to civic officials.

In a press release issued on Monday, the corporation said the helplines have been assigned constituency-wise to make it easier for residents to reach designated officials and register complaints without delay.

The move is aimed at streamlining streetlight maintenance services and improving response time across areas under the corporation's jurisdiction. Officials said complaints related to damaged, faulty or non-functional streetlights can be reported through the dedicated numbers.

Residents have often pointed out that poorly lit roads and dark stretches pose safety risks, especially during night hours. Pedestrians, motorists and women commuters are among those affected when streetlights remain unattended for long periods.

The corporation said the dedicated numbers will help ensure that complaints are routed to the officials concerned, allowing quicker follow-up and better coordination on the ground.



HELPLINE

Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Yeshwantpur, Dasarahalli
Call **8073918395 / 9611899159**

Mahalakshmipuram, Malleswaram, Rajajinagar
Call **9900408003 / 7391048464**

Padmanabhanagar, Basavanagudi, Vijayanagar, Govindarajnagar
Call **8001038330 / 9686196776**

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Nrupavaibhav-2025-26: Nrupathunga University, Nrupatunga Road, 10 am

Agribusiness Innovation Conference 2.0: Inauguration: N. Chaluvarayaswamy, Guests: K. Rajendra, Y.S. Patil, Jitendra Kumar, Chairman: S.V. Suresh, Organised by: Agri Innovation Centre, Bangalore Agricultural University, Venue: North Block, GKVK Campus, 10 am

Tribute to HS Doreswamy: Inauguration: Siddaramaiah, guests: Teesta Setalvad, Dinesh Gundurao, M.C. Sudhakar, Jignesh Mevani, Rizwan Arshad, B. Ramesh, Indira Krishnappa, organised by Dr H S Doreswamy Memorial Foundation, venue: Gyanjyothi Hall, Dr Manmohan Singh Bangalore City University, from 10.30 am

Lecture: 'Challenges faced by translators in today's era': Dr Na. Someshwara, N.S. Shankar, Organised by Institute of Translation Studies Malleswaram, Venue: Gandhi Sahitya Sangha, Malleswaram, 10.30 am

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	33.0°C
Minimum	21.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	NIL
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	57%
Sunset (May 26)	6:40 pm
Sunrise (May 27)	5:53 am
Moonrise	1:54 pm
Moonset	1:34 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.
ECN-TRD-04-2025-RT dated 19.05.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Name of Work	Approx.Value
Request for Proposal (RFP) for appointing Project Supervision Services Agency (PSSA) for providing Project Supervision Services for Various Construction Sites/Sections (Bengaluru Cantonment & Hubballi Unit) in the jurisdiction of Chief Electrical Engineer, Construction, Hubballi over SWR Zone	Rs. 2,56,49,420.16/-

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 11.00 hrs on 03.07.2026
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/TRD-I/ Construction/Bengaluru Cantt.
PUB/147/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27
Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/184/2026
Dated : 19-05-2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Composite work (Civil, Electrical General & OHE works) for construction of Chamarajanagar (CMNR) station yard remodeling and provision of Additional loopline at Hosa Agrahara (HAH) Station at CH:48655. **(Tender Ref. No. CMNR-HAH-YARD-LOOPLINE)**	Rs. 57,03,74,165/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs on 11-06-2026
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/149/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27
Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

EASTERN RAILWAY
Open Tender Notice No. TRD-WC-T-2026-27-10, dated 21.05.2026. E-tenders are invited by Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, PIN-713301 for the following works from required tenderers having valid Electric contractor license and Supervisory license and capable to complete the following work financially. **Tender Case No. : TRD-WC-T-2026-27-10. Name of the Work:** Extension of up reception line (Line no. 16) at Barakar Station yard. **Tender Value :** ₹ 1,80,65,062.36. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 3,61,300/-. **Completion period for the work:** 12 (Twelve) Months from the date of issue of letter of acceptance. **Validity of offers for the work:** 45 days from the date of opening. **Date and time of opening:** 03.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs. Complete details can be seen in the Railway website **www.ireps.gov.in**
ASN-109/2026-27
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

JHARKHAND FLYING INSTITUTE
State Hangar, Birsa Munda Airport, Hinoo Ranchi-834002
E-mail-jfi@jharkhandaviation.in,
Website-www.jharkhandaviation.in
Ref. No.: JFI / Employment-25/2025-429 /Ranchi, Dated:-23.05.2026
Notice
Jharkhand Flying Institute (JFI) invites application from qualified and experienced candidates for Technical/ Non-Technical Post for FTO.
Please visit our website:-www.jharkhandaviation.in and submit the resume to e-mail:-employment.jfi@gmail.com. Last date of receipt of application is-10.06.2026
Sd/-
(Managing Director)
Jharkhand Flying Institute
PR 380667 (Civil Aviation)26-27*D

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, 07th May, 2026
S.O. 2310(E) - In the exercise of the powers conferred by clause (6) of section 20F and clause 7A of section 2 of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) the Ministry of Railway (South Western Railway, Construction Organization, Bengaluru Cantonment) hereby authorizes the officers mentioned in column (4) of the table below as 'Competent Authority' and the officers mentioned in column (5) of the table below as 'Arbitrator' to perform the functions as such authority under the said act with effect from date of publication of this notification in the official gazette in respect of Special Railway Projects mentioned in column (2) relating to district mentioned in column (3) of the table below for public purpose of execution, maintenance, management and operation of such Special Railway Project.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	District	Competent Authority	Arbitrator
1	2	3	4	5
1	Bengaluru City - Mysuru section: Construction of Road Under Bridge in lieu of LC No. 10 at KM: 10/900-11/000 between Nayandahalli and Kengeri Stations	Bengaluru	Special Land Acquisition Officer, Bengaluru	Regional Commissioner, Bengaluru

No.W.271/CN/BNC/2026-27/Land SRP/1727
For details log on: https://egazette.gov.in
Pardeep Puri, Chief Engineer-III, Construction
Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/148/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27
Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SIR: Congress gives task to ministers

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Congress has asked all ministers to tour Assembly constituencies and hold meetings on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said on Monday.

Shivakumar said this after the party's 2-day session on SIR and upcoming elections to civic bodies under Greater Bengaluru Authority.

"No vote should be excluded. Voters must be provided with necessary documents. Forms issued by booth-level officers must be filled up and submitted," Shivakumar, also the state Congress president, said. "All ministers and MLAs must focus on SIR on priority".

At least 60 Congress office-bearers may lose their jobs for skipping the meeting. "Office-bearers who didn't attend... I have instructions to sack them. Those who aren't interested in party work will be removed," he said.

Schools set to reopen; 81% textbooks supplied

Nod for appointing guest teachers for 10 months

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government is all set to reopen its schools for the 2026-27 academic year with 81% of the textbooks having already reached the institutions.

The rest is expected to reach the schools before the commencement of classes on June 1.

Considering the delay in supply of textbooks every year, the Karnataka Textbook Society started the process early this year. Out of the orders for 9.34 crore textbooks, 7.59 crore have already reached the BEO offices.

However, the officials clarified that there was time till July 15 for the part B of the textbooks to reach schools. "So far, 81.5% of the textbooks have reached the respective locations and there will be no delay in supply of textbooks this year," said a senior official of the Textbook Society.

Meanwhile, to avoid inconveniences to students, the government has also given approval for recruitment of 51,000 guest teachers for the current academic year. Of this, 40,000 will be hired for primary schools and 11,000 for high schools. "Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had given instructions to submit proposal for recruitment of 15,000 teachers, but that will take at least three months after the approval from the Finance Department. Hence, the government has given approval for recruitment of guest teachers for a period of 10 months," said an official from the School Education and Literacy Department.

Official inauguration

On June 1, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar will officially inaugurate the classes for 2026-27 academic year, along with foundation stone laying for the new Karnataka Public School buildings at Shivamogga.

The supply of school uniforms this year is expected to be completed in the next few weeks.

This year, even the supply of uniforms is also under way and expected to be completed in the next few weeks.

Speaking to *DH*, Commissioner, School Education, Vikas Suralkar Kishor said, "50% of the uniforms have reached BEO offices and the rest will reach soon. As our admission process will go on till June 30 we cannot call it a delay. It is a continuous process and supply of one set of uniform will be completed in next few weeks and the second set will also be supplied soon."

However, the students have to wait at least for one and a half month to get shoes and socks. For the first time, the department has called for centralised tender for supply of shoes and socks for the academic year.

As per the information available, the bidders are yet to get the work order. Even then officials are confident of shoe-socks reaching schools by July 15.

Interestingly, the School Education department has set a target to ensure that student egg consumption reached 90% this year as last year it did not cross 60%.

Other initiatives

- Teachers asked to conduct bridge course for first few weeks
- Faculty directed to decorate schools and create a festive mood to welcome children back to schools
- On the reopening day, midday meal will be a feast
- Social media to reach parents and public to encourage them to admit kids to government schools

Gruha Jyothi

Three Years of Lighting Homes, Empowering Lives

Gruha Jyothi: From Zero Bills to Economic Relief

Guarantee Varthe

Bengaluru: In a time when the cost of daily living is soaring, one of the biggest concerns affecting the monthly budget of an ordinary family is the payment of utility bills. In such challenging times, the scheme that has illuminated the homes and lives of poor and lower-middle-class families across the state is 'Gruha Jyothi'.

One of the five Guarantee Schemes implemented by the government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, this scheme has, over the last three years, emerged as a force driving the economic and social progress of the state. According to statistics from the Energy Department, more than 1.64 crore domestic electricity consumers in the state have registered under this scheme and are receiving the benefit of 'Zero Bill'. For this, the government has so far spent ₹26,115 crore, paying it as subsidy to the Electricity Supply Companies (ESCOMs).

Officially launched on August 5, 2023, in Kalaburagi, the scheme has successfully fulfilled its promise of providing up to 200 units of free electricity to every household in the state. The most progressive decision under this scheme is that it was not restricted only to homeowners but was also extended to lakhs of residents living in rented houses. This has provided immense financial relief to the working class.

For the people like us, paying the electricity bill itself had become a major challenge. Now, electricity has become completely free through Siddaramaiah's government. The money that remains with us is helping feed our families. Not only that, this scheme has become a source of light that allows our children to study peacefully at night without any fear.

Mahadevappa Valmiki, Haveri

We are people who earn our daily food through wage labour. We used to receive an electricity bill of nearly ₹1,000 per month. We had to set aside the wages of two full days just to pay the bill. But because of Gruha Jyothi, we now receive a 'Zero Bill'. Since electricity has become free, it has greatly benefited the lives of poor people.

Lakshman Kumar, Raichur

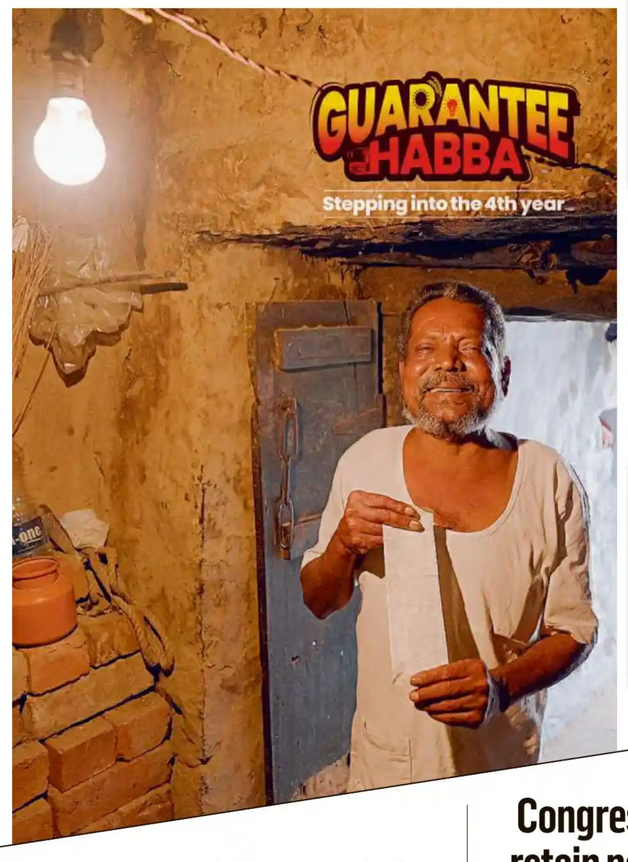
Due to lack of capital, I was unable to purchase new machines to provide tailoring training to girls and was worried about meeting electricity expenses. At such a time, the government's 'Gruha Jyothi' scheme became a great source of support for me. Once the concern of electricity bills disappeared, I saved the Gruha Lakshmi money, purchased new sewing machines, started my own tailoring classes.

Ameena Begum, Shahapur

karnataka information

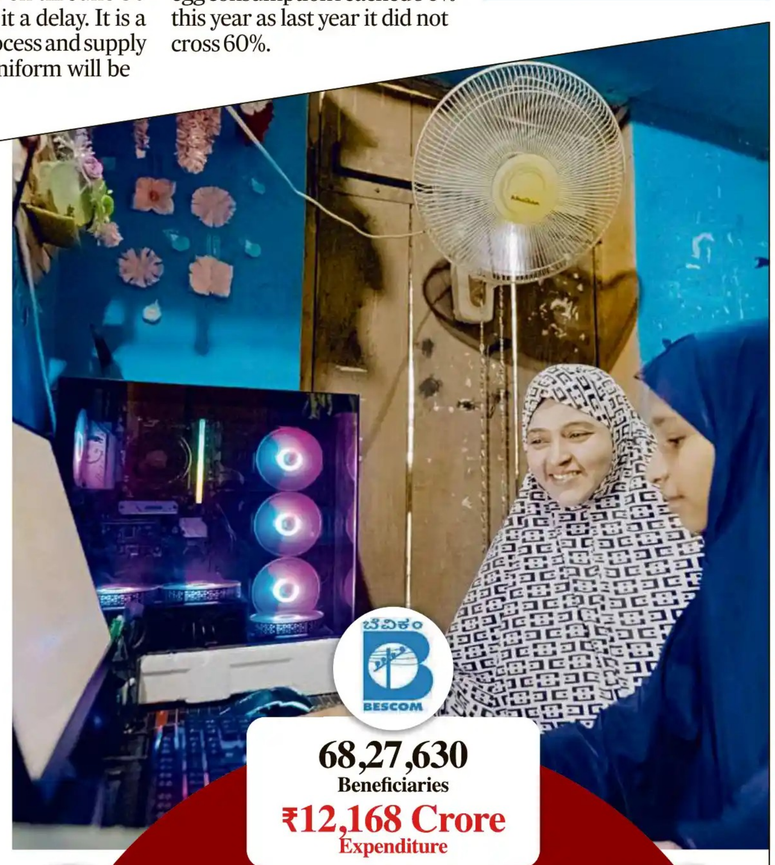
An Energy Revolution that Became a Model for the Nation

Karnataka's 'Gruha Jyothi' model is a revolutionary step in the country's energy sector. Beyond merely providing a free benefit, it has encouraged consumers to use electricity within their average consumption limits, thereby creating awareness about power conservation among the public. Several states across the country are now closely observing Karnataka's successful model and showing interest in implementing similar initiatives, which stands as a testament to its achievement.



Zero Bills Reviving the Rural Economy

The amount saved every month through electricity bills - ranging from ₹800 to ₹1,500 - is now remaining in the pockets of poor and middle-class families. Parents are using this money for their children's educational needs, purchasing nutritious food grains, and meeting the medical expenses of elderly family members. Some have even started small-scale enterprises from their homes. As a result, people's purchasing power has increased, and the rural economy is also recovering.



68,27,630 Beneficiaries ₹12,168 Crore Expenditure

BESCOM: 34,50,833 Beneficiaries ₹4,523 Crore Expenditure

GESCOM: 23,96,139 Beneficiaries ₹3,367 Crore Expenditure

CESC, Mysore: 23,50,753 Beneficiaries ₹3,032 Crore Expenditure

MESCOM: 16,37,123 Beneficiaries ₹2,889 Crore Expenditure

Lighting the Homes of the Poor is True Governance

The satisfaction of seeing Zero Bills reach crores of households every month under Gruha Jyothi is immense. Reducing the financial burden on people and improving their quality of life is the fundamental aspiration of our progressive Karnataka.

Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

A New Chapter in Karnataka's Energy Sector

The Gruha Jyothi scheme has infused new strength into the economic empowerment of ordinary people. Along with freeing households from electricity bills, its greatest success lies in instilling discipline and responsibility in electricity consumption among the public.

D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

Transparent and Continuous Energy Service

Despite the complexities of the electricity distribution system, our department has successfully delivered the benefits of Gruha Jyothi to more than 1.64 crore consumers without any confusion or disruption.

K.J. George, Energy Minister

No proposal before govt to establish nuclear power plant in Western Ghats: Khandre

MANJUSHREE G NAIK
UDUPI, DHNS

ESHWAR KHANDRE
Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment

"Survey activities had not come to my notice and I will respond after examining the issue.

Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment Eshwar Khandre said that no proposal, on establishing a nuclear power plant in the Western Ghats, had come before the state government.

Eshwar Khandre was responding after his attention was drawn to protests in parts of Sagar (in Shivamogga) and Uttara Kannada over reports of a possible nuclear project being established in the ecologically sensitive region. When repeatedly questioned about reports of surveys linked to a nuclear power project, Khandre maintained that no such proposal had reached the government. He claimed that survey activities had not come to his notice and he will respond after examining the issue.

Responding to queries from mediapersons on Monday, the minister said that the government is committed to protecting the Western Ghats and will not allow any activity that could damage the biodiversity-rich ecosystem.

Referring to Kasturirangan Report, he said government had rejected its implementation after considering the opinions of local residents. "Both 'lives and livelihoods' of people had to be protected," he said and added that nearly 83% of the Western Ghats was under protection through reserved forests, wildlife sanctuaries and national parks.

Describing the region as world's eighth biodiversity hotspot, he said it has been home to a vast range of plant species, animals, birds, insects and Shola forests, besides being the source of many rivers and playing a crucial role in bringing rainfall. Minister said government had taken many measures for environmental conservation, including clearing forest encroachments across the state, addressing human-animal conflict and implementing biodiversity conservation programmes.

"We will not allow any harm to the Western Ghats," he declared. Responding to complaints that residents were unable to obtain land ownership documents due to deemed forest issue, the minister said the government was working on a permanent solution. On environmentalists complaining about river pollution and increasing human intervention in Kollur, under Mookambika Wildlife Division jurisdiction, Khandre said environmentalists should submit their findings to Forest and Environment departments.

He said senior officials and experts would study the issue and recommend necessary action.

Khandre also confirmed that the government was considering a proposal to declare the 'Malabar Tree Toad' as state frog and the 'Tuduve honeybee' as the state bee soon.

Congress will retain power in state in 2028, says DKS

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC chief D K Shivakumar said on Monday that the Congress would retain power in 2028.

Shivakumar, while replying at a press meet to a question on BJP president Nitin Nabin's reported instruction to state BJP leaders to focus on wresting power in the 2028 polls, said, "In 2023, Amit Shah had said BJP will win 122 seats in Karnataka and asked BJP leaders to get new suits stitched (for oath-taking ceremony). But I had told you (reporters) that Congress will win 136 seats. This time, I am again saying Congress will win in 2028. This same D K Shivakumar, and Congress will come to power," he asserted.

In response, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka sarcastically suggested that Shivakumar should worry about his future, indirectly referring to the power-tussle in the party.

Suspects in Rs 24-cr digital arrest involved in another fraud

BENGALURU, DHNS: The suspects arrested in the Rs 24-crore digital arrest case in Bengaluru were also involved in another similar fraud in Belagavi where a victim lost Rs 15 crore, as per the Karnataka Cyber Command Unit (CCU).

"Palak Bhai Patel and Amit Narendra Patel from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, are connected to another in Rs 15-crore digital arrest fraud pertaining to CCPS, Belagavi city. The details of these persons have been intimated to the Belagavi CCPS and they have obtained body warant and these accused persons are currently in the custody of Belagavi CCPS," the CCU said in a statement on Monday.

Another arrested suspect, Sivagnanam from Erode, is found to be involved in four other cyber fraud cases, and Akkach Mallick from Mumbai is involved in three cyber frauds. In addition to the recovery of Rs 1.46 crore and a further Rs 1.40 crore is under recovery, the CCU said.

The CCU on Sunday had announced the arrest of six interstate suspects who had cheated a retired teacher, 74, in east Bengaluru of Rs 24 crore after holding her under "digital arrest".

PARCHED VARUNA LAKE

Even as pre-monsoon showers lash parts of Karnataka, Varuna lake near Mysuru is on the verge of drying up. A cow comes in search of pasture on the lakebed on Monday. DH PHOTO/ANUP RAGH T

TATA
TATA POWER

THE TATA POWER COMPANY LIMITED,

Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Mumbai - 400 001, India, Tel: (9122) 6665 8282, Fax: (91 22) 6665 8801 Website: www.tatapower.com CIN: L28920MH1919PLC000567

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice inviting suggestions/objections on the Application filed by The Tata Power Company Limited for grant of Distribution Licence under Section 14 and Section 15 of Electricity Act, 2003 for three (3) revenue districts of HESCOM namely Belagavi, Uttara Kannada and Dharwad

(Case No. MP/06/2026)

1. The Tata Power Company Limited (Tata Power) has filed an Application **(Case No. MP/06/2026)** before the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC/Commission) for grant of Distribution Licence to TPCL for **the geographically connected areas comprising three (3) revenue districts of HESCOM namely Belagavi, Uttara Kannada and Dharwad** under Sections 14 and 15 of Electricity Act, 2003 ("the Act") read with Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, KERC (Licensing) Regulations, 2004 and other applicable Rules and Regulations. The Commission has directed Tata Power to publish a Public Notice under Section 15 (2) of the Act.
2. **The salient features of the Application are briefly provided below:**

Applicant's Name:	The Tata Power Company Limited
Address of Applicant's Registered Office:	Bombay House 24 Homi Mody Street Mumbai 400 001
Nature of license applied for:	Distribution License under 6th proviso of Section 14 of the Act
Applicant's principal place of business:	**Geographically connected areas comprising three (3) revenue districts of HESCOM namely Belagavi, Uttara Kannada and Dharwad.**

3. **Other salient features of the Application:**
- The Tata Power Company Limited is catering to the power demand of the consumers across Mumbai, Ajmer, and in the states of Delhi and Odisha.
- Tata Power Distribution – Mumbai has a customer base of over 0.8 million consumers in Mumbai across an area of 485 Sq. kms, with a network length of 4850 CKM and more than 99.99% reliability, which is among the highest in the country.
- Tata Power has remarkable performance at Tata Power – DDL, Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), Tata Power Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL), Tata Power Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL), Tata Power Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL), Tata Power Ajmer Distribution Limited (TPADL).
- Tata Power has been engaged in the business of distribution of electricity for over a century and is thereby in possession of unrivalled expertise and capabilities to manage the increasingly complex electricity distribution business. The Petitioner intends to leverage multiple synergies and thus cater to the ever-increasing power demand of consumers in the proposed area of supply i.e. the geographically connected area comprising of **three (3) revenue districts of HESCOM namely Belagavi, Uttara Kannada and Dharwad.**
- The proposed area for which The Tata Power Company Limited is seeking Distribution License, presently falls within the distribution area of Hubli Electricity Supply Company Limited (HESCOM).

4. **Legal Status of the Applicant and Registration No.:**
Public Limited Company - CIN [L28920MH1919PLC000567]
5. **Shareholding Pattern:**

Sr. No.	Name of Shareholder	No. of shares held (31st March 2025)
(i)	Promoter & Promoter Group	1497257565
(ii)	Public	1698081982
(iii)	Non Promoter - Non Public	0
(iv)	Shares Underlying DRs	0
(v)	Shares Held By Employee Trust	0
(vi)	Total	3195339547

6. **Management Profile (Board of Directors):**

Sr. No.	Name and Designation	Qualification	Area of Expertise	Experience
1	Mr. Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Non-Independent, Non- Executive Director, Chairperson	• Masters in Computer Applications, Regional Engineering College, Trichy	• Chairman of Tata Sons	Over 36 years
		• Honorary 'Doctor of Letters', Regional Engineering College, Trichy	• Leadership in global business operations	
2	Dr. Praveer Sinha, Managing Director & CEO	• Ph.D. from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	• Power sector expert	Over 36 years
		• Masters in Business Law from National Law School, Bangalore	• Leadership in power generation and distribution	
		• Electrical Engineering degree from Delhi College of Engineering		
3	Ms. Anjali Bansal, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Bachelor's in Computer Engineering	• Expertise in corporate governance	Over 20 years
		• Master's in International Finance and Business from Columbia University	• Experience in technology and financial services sectors	
4	Mr. Ashok Sinha, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Bachelor's in Chemical Engineering from IIT Kanpur	• Extensive experience in the energy sector	Over 38 years
		• MBA from IIM Bangalore	• Former Chairman and Managing Director of BPCL	
5	Mr. Rajiv Mehrishi, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Master's in History	• Former Comptroller and Auditor General of India	Over 40 years in civil services
		• MBA from University of Strathclyde, UK	• Expertise in public administration and finance	
6	Ms. Vibha Padalkar, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Chartered Accountant	• Managing Director and CEO of HDFC Life Insurance Company	Over 30 years
			• Expertise in finance and insurance sectors	
7	Mr. Saurabh Agrawal, Non-Executive Director	• Bachelor's in Chemical Engineering from IIT Roorkee	• Group Chief Financial Officer of Tata Sons	Over 25 years
		• PGDM from IIM Calcutta	• Expertise in corporate finance and strategy	
8	Mr. Sanjay V. Bhandarkar, Independent Non-Executive Director	• MBA from XLRI, Jamshedpur	• Former Managing Director of Rothschild India	Over 30 years
			• Experience in investment banking and corporate finance	
9	Mr. Tarun Bajaj, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Bachelor's in Commerce from Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi University	• Former Revenue Secretary, Government of India	Over 34 years in civil services
		• MBA from Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad	• Expertise in finance, taxation, and public administration	
		• M.Sc. from London School of Economics and Political Science		
10	Pramod Agarwal Independent Non-Executive Director	• B. Tech (Civil) - IIT Mumbai	• Former Chairman and Managing Director ('CMD') of Coal India Limited, Principal Secretary in Government of Madhya Pradesh	Over 30 + years in civil services
		• M. Tech (Design Engineering) IIT Delhi.	• Project management, • Strategic alliances • Tactical planning	

7. **Summary of activities and past experience in similar activities:**
In the electricity distribution sector, Tata Power is providing uninterrupted, affordable, and reliable power supply to consumers across Mumbai, Ajmer, and in the states of Delhi and Odisha.
I. **Distribution License in Mumbai:** The Hon'ble MERC granted a Distribution License to Tata Power (Distribution License No.1 of 2014) for a period of 25 years for Mumbai City, and part of Mumbai Suburban Area, (areas of Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation including area covered under Chene and Varsave). Tata Power Distribution – Mumbai has a customer base of over 0.8 Million consumers in Mumbai across an area of 485 Sq. kms., with a network length of 4,850 CKM and peak demand of 1,076 MW, Tata Power Distribution-Mumbai operates a state-of-the-art electricity distribution network with distribution losses of around 1.24%.
II. **Distribution License in Delhi:** Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power – DDL) was incorporated in July 2002 as a Joint Venture of the Tata Power Company Limited (51%) and the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (49%) on the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. Tata Power – DDL serves customer base of about 2.1 million, manages an electricity distribution network of about 12500 CKM. The AT&C loss levels have been reduced from 53.1% in 2002 to 5.54% in 2025.
III. **Distribution License in Central Odisha:** Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) is a Joint Venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha with the majority stake being held by Tata Power Company (51%). TPCODL serves a customer base of 3.3 million over a vast distribution area of 29,354 sq. km. Starting from 30.49% at the time of acquisition in June 2020, the AT&C losses now stand at 19.6%. TPCODL manages an electricity distribution network of 114119 Ckt. Km.
IV. **Distribution License in Northern Odisha:** Tata Power Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL) was formed in April 2021 as a Joint Venture between Tata Power (51%) and GRIDCO Ltd (49%) to carry out the function of distribution and retail supply of electricity. TPNODL serves customer base of 2.2 million, spanning across an area of 27920 sq. kms. The AT&C losses for the year stood at 12.6 % at the end of FY 25 which is an achievement of 4.49 % less than the target of 17.09% assigned by the Hon'ble OERC. TPNODL operates 566 power transformers, 81168 distribution transformers and 164629 ckm of Network.
V. **Distribution License in Southern Odisha:** Tata Power Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) started its operations in January 2021. With a consumer base of about 2.2 million, TPSODL spans for around 48,751 Sq. kms. in the southern parts of Odisha. TPSODL manages and operates 112955 ckm of network. The peak demand recorded was 798 MVA.
VI. **Distribution License in Western Odisha:** Tata Power Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL) is a Joint Venture between Tata Power (51%) and GRIDCO Limited (49%) and started its operations in January 2021. TPWODL had a registered customer base of 2.2 million covering 48,373 sq. km. TPWODL manages and operates 692 power transformers, 82752 distribution transformers, 179694 Ckt. Km. of Network. The AT&C losses during FY 25 were 17.1 %. Peak demand recorded was 1780 MW.
VII. **Distribution Franchisee in Ajmer:** Tata Power Ajmer Distribution Limited (TPADL) is a distribution franchisee having signed a Distribution Franchisee Agreement (DFA) with Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited. TPADL is responsible for operating and maintaining the distribution network in Ajmer City and managing the billing and collection across an area of around 200 Sq. Kms. TPADL has contributed towards reduction of AT&C losses from 17.2% to 7.8%.

8. **Proposed area of supply, its description and number of consumers proposed to be served:** The Tata Power Company Limited seeks to undertake distribution and supply of power in the geographically connected area comprising of three **(3) revenue districts of HESCOM namely Belagavi, Uttara Kannada and Dharwad.** The aforementioned areas cover either entirely or partially the area of **1. Belagavi City Corporation 2. Gokak City Municipal Council 3. Nippani City Municipal Council 4. Dandeli City Municipal Council 5. Karwara City Municipal Council 6. Sirsi City Municipal Council 7. Hubbali- Dharwad City Corporation**
TPC will serve more than 38,500 (Thirty Eight Thousand Five Hundred) consumers by the end of 3 years from grant of Licence.
9. **Contact details of the nodal person from whom copy of application may be obtained for inspection or purchase:**

(i)	Name and Designation of Person	Shri. Manish Dahake, Group Head - Network Planning & Consumer Engineering (City)
(ii)	Address of the office from where to obtain copy of application for inspection or purchase:	The Tata Power Company Limited, Distribution Division, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400 013, India.
(iii)	Detailed application documents along with CD (in English) (on payment of Rs. 150/- in cash or by DD/ Cheque drawn on [The Tata Power Company Limited] payable at Mumbai).	
(iv)	Detailed application documents (in English) (on payment of Rs. 100/-);	
(v)	CD of detailed application document (in English) (on payment of Rs. 50/-);	

10. **Website address from where the copy of application and other documents mentioned therein may be downloaded free of cost:**
Website: **www.tatapower.com**
11. The Tata Power Company Limited hereby confirms and declares that the Applicant duly complies with the additional requirements laid down under Rule 3 of The Distribution of Electricity Licence (Additional Requirements of Capital Adequacy, Creditworthiness and Code of Conduct) Rules, 2005 (amended from time time) notified by the Central Government. TPCL has filed Licence Application as detailed hereinabove and also enclosed all the compliance documents as part of the application.
12. In response to the Public Notice published, every person who intends to file suggestions/ objections can submit the same in English or Kannada language in writing to email id: asst.secykerc@gmail.com. In case of difficulty in accessing this feature, the concerned stakeholder can contact the KERC Office on Mobile No.: 8147 144 627 or on email id: asst.secykerc@gmail.com in between 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM on all the working days.
13. A Person who has submitted his / her suggestion / objection through email id mentioned above need not file any hard copy of its submission. Persons who do not have access to electronic media can file their suggestion/ objection in a hard copy addressed to The Secretary, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, Address: No 16C-1, Millers Road, Kaverappa Layout, Vasantha Nagar, Bengaluru Karnataka 560052. within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice, along with proof of service on Mr. V. H. Wagle, Tata Power Company Limited [Tel: (91-22)-67172953 ,Email: vidyadhar.wagle@tatapower.com] and should carry the full name, postal address and E-mail address, if any, of the sender. Suggestions and/or objections received after **5 PM on 23rd June 2026** shall not be considered. Suggestions/Objections filed through any other mode shall not be considered.
14. TPCL shall reply to each of the objections /comments received within three days of the receipt of the same but not later than **27th June 2026** for all the objections/comments received till **23rd June 2026.**

Sd/-
Vidyadhar Hari Wagle
Chief - Regulatory
The Tata Power Company Limited

Place: Mumbai
Date: 25th May, 2026

TATA
TATA POWER

THE TATA POWER COMPANY LIMITED,

Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Mumbai - 400 001, India, Tel: (9122) 6665 8282, Fax: (91 22) 6665 8801 Website: www.tatapower.com CIN: L28920MH1919PLC000567

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice inviting suggestions/objection on the Application filed by The Tata Power Company Limited for grant of Distribution Licence under Section 14 and Section 15 of Electricity Act, 2003 for three (3) revenue districts of CESC namely Mysuru, Chamarajanagar and Hassan

(Case No. MP/02/2026)

1. The Tata Power Company Limited (Tata Power) has filed an Application **(Case No.MP/02/2026)** before the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC/Commission) for grant of Distribution Licence to TPCL for **the geographically connected areas comprising three (3) revenue districts of CESC namely Mysuru, Chamarajanagar and Hassan** under Sections 14 and 15 of Electricity Act, 2003 ("the Act") read with Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, KERC (Licensing) Regulations, 2004 and other applicable Rules and Regulations. The Commission has directed Tata Power to publish a Public Notice under Section 15 (2) of the Act.
2. The salient features of the Application are briefly provided below:

Applicant's Name:	The Tata Power Company Limited
Address of Applicant's Registered Office:	Bombay House 24 Homi Mody Street Mumbai 400 001
Nature of license applied for:	Distribution License under 6th proviso of Section 14 of the Act
Applicant's principal place of business:	**Geographically connected areas comprising three (3) revenue districts of CESC namely Mysuru, Chamarajanagar and Hassan**

3. **Other salient features of the Application:**
- The Tata Power Company Limited is catering to the power demand of the consumers across Mumbai, Ajmer, and in the states of Delhi and Odisha.
- Tata Power Distribution – Mumbai has a customer base of over 0.8 million consumers in Mumbai across an area of 485 Sq. kms, with a network length of 4850 CKM and more than 99.99% reliability, which is among the highest in the country.
- Tata Power has remarkable performance at Tata Power – DDL, Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), Tata Power Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL), Tata Power Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL), Tata Power Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL), Tata Power Ajmer Distribution Limited (TPADL).
- Tata Power has been engaged in the business of distribution of electricity for over a century and is thereby in possession of unrivalled expertise and capabilities to manage the increasingly complex electricity distribution business. The Petitioner intends to leverage multiple synergies and thus cater to the ever-increasing power demand of consumers in the proposed area of supply i.e. the geographically connected area comprising of three **(3) revenue districts of CESC namely Mysuru, Chamarajanagar and Hassan.**
- The proposed area for which The Tata Power Company Limited is seeking Distribution License, presently falls within the distribution area of **Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation Limited (CESC).**

4. **Legal Status of the Applicant and Registration No.:**
Public Limited Company -CIN [L28920MH1919PLC000567]
5. **Shareholding Pattern:**

Sr. No.	Name of Shareholder	No. of shares held (31st March 2025)
(i)	Promoter & Promoter Group	1497257565
(ii)	Public	1698081982
(iii)	Non Promoter - Non Public	0
(iv)	Shares Underlying DRs	0
(v)	Shares Held By Employee Trust	0
(vi)	Total	3195339547

6. **Management Profile (Board of Directors):**

Sr. No.	Name and Designation	Qualification	Area of Expertise	Experience
1	Mr. Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Non-Independent, Non- Executive Director, Chairperson	• Masters in Computer Applications, Regional Engineering College, Trichy	• Chairman of Tata Sons	Over 36 years
		• Honorary 'Doctor of Letters', Regional Engineering College, Trichy	• Leadership in global business operations	
2	Dr. Praveer Sinha, Managing Director & CEO	• Ph.D. from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	• Power sector expert	Over 36 years
		• Masters in Business Law from National Law School, Bangalore	• Leadership in power generation and distribution	
		• Electrical Engineering degree from Delhi College of Engineering		
3	Ms. Anjali Bansal, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Bachelor's in Computer Engineering	• Expertise in corporate governance	Over 20 years
		• Master's in International Finance and Business from Columbia University	• Experience in technology and financial services sectors	
4	Mr. Ashok Sinha, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Bachelor's in Chemical Engineering from IIT Kanpur	• Extensive experience in the energy sector	Over 38 years
		• MBA from IIM Bangalore	• Former Chairman and Managing Director of BPCL	
5	Mr. Rajiv Mehrishi, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Master's in History	• Former Comptroller and Auditor General of India	Over 40 years in civil services
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		• M. Tech (Design Engineering) IIT Delhi.	• Project management, • Strategic alliances • Tactical planning	

7. **Summary of activities and past experience in similar activities:**
In the electricity distribution sector, Tata Power is providing uninterrupted, affordable, and reliable power supply to consumers across Mumbai, Ajmer, and in the states of Delhi and Odisha.
I. **Distribution License in Mumbai:** The Hon'ble MERC granted a Distribution License to Tata Power (Distribution License No.1 of 2014) for a period of 25 years for Mumbai City, and part of Mumbai Suburban Area, (areas of Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation including area covered under Chene and Varsave). Tata Power Distribution – Mumbai has a customer base of over 0.8 Million consumers in Mumbai across an area of 485 Sq. kms., with a network length of 4,850 CKM and peak demand of 1,076 MW, Tata Power Distribution-Mumbai operates a state-of-the-art electricity distribution network with distribution losses of around 1.24%.
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8. **Proposed area of supply, its description and number of consumers proposed to be served:** The Tata Power Company Limited seeks to undertake distribution and supply of power in the geographically connected area comprising of three **(3) revenue districts of of CESC namely Mysuru, Chamarajanagar and Hassan.** The aforementioned areas cover either entirely or partially the area of **1. Mysuru City Corporation 2. Chamarajanagara City Municipal Council 3. Kollegala City Municipal Council 4. Arasikere City Municipal Council 5. Hassan City Municipal Council**
TPC will serve more than 48,000 (Forty-Eight Thousand) consumers by the end of 3 years from Grant of Licence.
9. **Contact details of the nodal person from whom copy of application may be obtained for inspection or purchase:**

(i)	Name and Designation of Person	Shri Manish Dahake, Group Head - Network Planning & Consumer Engineering (City)
(ii)	Address of the office from where to obtain copy of application for inspection or purchase:	The Tata Power Company Limited, Distribution Division, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400 013, India
(iii)	Detailed application documents along with CD (in English) (on payment of Rs. 150/- in cash or by DD/ Cheque drawn on [The Tata Power Company Limited] payable at Mumbai).	
(iv)	Detailed application documents (in English) (on payment of Rs. 100/-);	
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10. Website address from where the copy of application and other documents mentioned therein may be downloaded free of cost:
Website: **www.tatapower.com**
11. The Tata Power Company Limited hereby confirms and declares that the Applicant duly complies with the additional requirements laid down under Rule 3 of The Distribution of Electricity Licence (Additional Requirements of Capital Adequacy, Creditworthiness and Code of Conduct) Rules, 2005 (amended from time time) notified by the Central Government. TPC has filed Licence Application as detailed hereinabove and also enclosed all the compliance documents as part of the application.
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13. A Person who has submitted his / her suggestion / objection through email id mentioned above need not file any hard copy of its submission. Persons who do not have access to electronic media can file their suggestion/ objection in a hard copy addressed to The Secretary, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, Address: No 16C-1, Millers Road, Kaverappa Layout, Vasantha Nagar, Bengaluru Karnataka 560052. within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice, along with proof of service on Mr. V. H. Wagle, Tata Power Company Limited [Tel: (91-22)-67172953 ,Email: vidyadhar.wagle@tatapower.com] and should carry the full name, postal address and E-mail address, if any, of the sender. Suggestions and/or objections received after **5 PM on 23rd June 2026** shall not be considered. Suggestions/Objections filed through any other mode shall not be considered.
14. TPC shall reply to each of the objections /comments received within three days of the receipt of the same but not later than **27th June 2026** for all the objections/comments received till **23rd June 2026.**

Sd/-
Vidyadhar Hari Wagle
Chief - Regulatory
The Tata Power Company Limited

Place: Mumbai
Date: 25th May, 2026

Police take out a route march in Bhatkal in Uttara Kannada district on Monday.

'Murinakatte' dispute: Prohibitory orders clamped in Bhatkal

BHATKAL (UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT), DHNS

Prohibitory orders have been clamped in Bhatkal town and Jali Town Panchayat jurisdiction till May 27 following tension in the wake of the eviction of Murinakatte (reconstructed platform where the offerings made to deities are kept/unloaded), near Jagatebail.

Superintendent of Police Deepan M N said, "The platform has not been damaged. But the new platform, which some people had constructed to shift it, is damaged, and we have arrested more than six miscreants who had damaged it."

BJP leaders, workers of Hindu Jagarana Vedike and other Hindu organisations had staged a protest on Sunday night in front of the town police station, charging that some Muslim youths had damaged the Murinakatte, assaulted the cops and the police had failed to act against them. They had tried to go to the spot.

The police had taken them into custody and they were later released.

They also raised slogans against the District In-charge Minister, Mankal Vaidya, who came to convince them.

At a press conference, BJP leader Sunil Naik charged that the miscreants have destroyed the newly built Murinakatte, but the police are misleading the people, stating that it is not damaged.

He said the Murinakatte has been cleared for the highway expansion. Hence, there was no Murinakatte. It has been built now, he said.

Deputy Commissioner K Lakshmipriya said the Murinakatte, on the edge of the national highway, will be as it is and the people should not believe rumours.

Govt ignores red flags, okays Rs 39k-crore garbage deal

Garbage deal, from Flap Page 1

The final project cost, based on the price quoted by the bidder, stands at Rs 17,993.33 crore, which is approximately Rs 2,928 crore higher than the original estimate.

Together, the cost escalation over the initial estimates itself amounts to nearly Rs 6,389 crore.

Secondly, the Finance department flagged the annual escalation clause of 5% built into the agreements for the next 30 years.

"With 5% compounding, at the end of 30 years the base rate would have become almost four-and-a-half times greater than the present rate," the department warned, effectively projecting a 430% increase in rates over the concession period.

The Finance department cautioned that the contracts would create a "vendor lock-in" situation, especially because both packages had been awarded to the same concessionaire, giving one private player control over a major portion of Bengaluru's waste management ecosystem for three decades.

The department also questioned the necessity of such a long concession period when the government itself was providing land for the facilities and the private investments involved were not exceptionally high.

It recommended reducing the contract duration from 30 years to 10 years and limiting the annual escalation to 2.5%.

For its part, the Urban Development department defended the proposal citing Bengaluru's worsening waste crisis.

According to the department, the city generates around 5,200 tonnes of waste daily but only about 1,800 tonnes is scientifically processed, with the remaining waste ending up in landfills. It argued that the project would not impose any financial burden on the government and it will entirely be borne by the five corporations

Not convinced, the Finance department advised the government to constitute an expert committee headed by the Additional Chief Secretary, along with external experts and officials, to independently examine the proposal before Cabinet approval.

Sources in the government however noted that the Cabinet cleared the proposal last Thursday but Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has not signed the proceedings yet.

Tata Power applies for distribution licence in K'taka

Tata Power, From Flap Page 1

Prabhakar said it will also provide reliable better-quality supply and bring down migration to open access.

However, the benefits of having an additional distribution licensee may not necessarily lead to economic tariffs for all consumers, experts said.

"In Maharashtra, new parallel licensees sought high-revenue areas, and the proposed network rollout plans focused on catering to the industrial and commercial consumers first," said Ashwini Chitnis, Programme Head, Clean Energy Supply, WRI India.

She added that duplicating the distribution network does not provide any economic benefit to consumers at large.

In Mumbai, owing to unique legal precedents, the duplication of infrastructure was prevented, but that might not be the case anywhere else, she noted.

"If the new licensee has to set up the complete network from scratch, given that the task is capital intensive, the economic benefits for consumers may be less," she said.

According to sources, the Tata Power Company Limited (TPCL) has applied for a licence to operate at Chikkaballapur, Ramanagara, Kolar, Bengaluru rural, Tumakuru and Chitradurga under Bescom jurisdiction.

Applications have also been filed to cover Shivamogga, Dakshin Kannada and Udupi under Mescom, and Belagavi, Uttar Kannada and Dharwad under the jurisdiction of Hescom. The TPCL also plans to operate in Mysuru, Chamarajanagar and Hassan under the CESC.

Health schemes: IISc's CDPG builds a secure AI data platform to detect frauds

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Centre of Data for Public Good (CDPG) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, has developed a privacy-preserving AI platform, which recently enabled a national-level healthcare hackathon focused on faster claims processing and fraud detection under the Ayushman Bharat (AB) PM-JAY scheme.

The recently developed platform, called 'Trusted AI Data Platform', allowed startups, researchers and AI developers to work on real-world healthcare claims datasets without exposing sensitive patient information.

The initiative addresses a longstanding challenge, revolving around healthcare and AI, said Rakshit Ramesh, VP (Analytics) at CDPG, talking about the process of "enabling innovation while protecting privacy", and working within the realms of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDPA).

According to CDPG, the platform created a secure and governed environment where participants could build, test and validate AI models for healthcare claims adjudication. Instead of sharing raw patient records, the system used controlled sandbox environments, curated datasets and blind evaluation systems that ensured sensitive data remained protected.

The platform addresses concerns revolving around AI and data protection and is scalable nationally, highlighted Ashok Krishnan, VP (commercial business) at CDPG.

Ramesh said, "The era of AI is here, and it is taking off in a big way. We live in a world where the full potential of what AI can do for humanity and for organisations is yet to be fully realised."

One of the biggest hurdles for that is that organisations are not opening up their data fully to AI, as there are a lot of fears, especially regulatory fears. But with what our platform can do, we are able to induce a sort of trust in the system. That's why we're calling it the trusted AI data platform. By adding that secure layer, we are creating confidence around how AI can be used with sensitive data."

"We are also adding the ability to audit exactly what data was shared, whether it was anonymised, whether it was de-identified, and whether consent was taken or not. All of those audit trails exist within the system," he elaborated.

The platform's architecture included hosted model access, sandboxed development environments and automated evaluation mechanisms designed to replicate production conditions while maintaining strict governance controls.

During the hackathon, Sunil Kumar Barnwal, CEO of NHA, said large-scale healthcare schemes require systems that are efficient, transparent and trustworthy.

He noted that CDPG's platform provided the technological backbone for the hackathon.

Govt to scrutinise beneficiary...

Guarantees, From Page 1

"It is an excuse to slash beneficiaries amid a funds crunch. Do you need a separate campaign to remove the dead beneficiaries? It is Congress' drama. It is a routine practice in the revenue department to remove names on submission of death certificates and you don't need a special campaign to remove the dead from the list," Ashoka said.

The BJP leader alleged the state is "pauper" and said around Rs 5,000 crore was pending under Gruha Lakshmi and Rs 700 crore under Anna Bhagya schemes as the state government had not paid for the 5kg free rice as promised.

On the two-month delay in 'Annabhagya' free rice distribution, Shivakumar alleged that the Union government had not released the rice and it was the case across all the Congress-ruled states.

Countering Shivakumar on rice supply, Ashoka said: "The Centre has despatched the state quota for May-June. The state indented four lakh metric tonnes at Rs 23 per kg but made no payment. I have spoken to the Union minister. This is a clear indication that the state has gone bankrupt."

The Siddaramaiah regime has spent Rs 1.36 lakh crore on the five guarantee schemes in the last three years. The government has flagged concerns over alleged misuse of funds under Gruha Lakshmi (1.24 crore beneficiaries) and Gruha Jyoti (1.64 crore households) schemes, which are now under the scanner.

All eyes on Cong top brass...

Cong meet, From Page 1

Parameshwara said he does not know if the high command will meet Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar together or separately. He said the upcoming elections to Rajya Sabha and the Legislative Council, the Cabinet reshuffle and Special Intensive Revision (SIR) may be discussed.

Asked about the leadership dispute between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, Parameshwara said, "I've been saying that such confusions shouldn't exist in the party because they impact governance. So, the sooner it is resolved, the better."

Senior MLAs B R Patil and TB Jayachandra also left for Delhi. "I'm confident that I'll become a minister. Let's see," Patil said.

'No lessons learnt': SC pulls up...

NTA, from Page 1

It further asked the high-powered panel headed by Dr K Radhakrishnan to file an affidavit on the steps taken to ensure compliance with the committee's recommendations.

In 2024, the Supreme Court had declined to cancel the NEET-UG exam but issued several directions to address paper leaks and laid down guidelines for the cancellation of public examinations.

In the instant matter, FAIMA urged the apex court to direct the restructuring or complete replacement of the NTA with a technologically advanced and autonomous institution to restore credibility in medical entrance tests.

The plea described the recurring leaks as a "direct assault" on the fundamental rights of over 22.7 lakh students who appeared for the exam.

The NEET-UG 2026 examination, held on May 3, was cancelled on May 12 following allegations of paper leakage. The CBI is currently investigating the case.

The petition highlighted reports that "guess papers" circulated on encrypted messaging platforms like WhatsApp and Telegram matched more than 100 questions from the actual paper.

FAIMA has also sought the constitution of a high-powered monitoring committee, headed by a retired Supreme Court judge and including cyber security and forensic experts, to oversee the re-conduct of the exam.

Another petition filed by the United Doctors Front has called for the dissolution of the NTA citing its "systemic failure" in conducting the examination.

TATA
TATA POWER
THE TATA POWER COMPANY LIMITED,
Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Mumbai - 400 001, India, Tel: (9122) 6665 8282, Fax: (91 22) 6665 8801 Website: www.tatapower.com CIN: L28920MH1919PLC000567

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice inviting suggestions/objection on the Application filed by The Tata Power Company Limited for grant of Distribution Licence under Section 14 and Section 15 of Electricity Act, 2003 for Six (6) revenue districts of BESCOM namely Chikkballapura, Kolara, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Tumakuru and Chitradurga

(Case No. MP/03/2026)

1. The Tata Power Company Limited (Tata Power) has filed an Application **(Case No. MP/03/2026)** before the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC/Commission) for grant of Distribution Licence to TPCL for **the geographically connected areas comprising Six (6) revenue districts of BESCOM namely Chikkballapura, Kolara, Bengaluru Rural, Ramnagara, Tumakuru and Chitradurga** under Sections 14 and 15 of Electricity Act, 2003 ("the Act") read with Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, KERC (Licensing) Regulations, 2004 and other applicable Rules and Regulations. The Commission has directed Tata Power to publish a Public Notice under Section 15 (2) of the Act.
2. **The salient features of the Application are briefly provided below:**

Applicant's Name:	The Tata Power Company Limited
Address of Applicant's Registered Office:	Bombay House 24 Homi Mody Street Mumbai 400 001
Nature of license applied for:	Distribution License under 6th proviso of Section 14 of the Act
Applicant's principal place of business:	**Geographically connected areas comprising Six (6) revenue districts of BESCOM namely Chikkballapura, Kolara, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Tumakuru and Chitradurga**

3. **Other salient features of the Application:**
- The Tata Power Company Limited is catering to the power demand of the consumers across Mumbai, Ajmer, and in the states of Delhi and Odisha.
- Tata Power Distribution – Mumbai has a customer base of over 0.8 million consumers in Mumbai across an area of 485 Sq. kms, with a network length of 4850 CKM and more than 99.99% reliability, which is among the highest in the country.
- Tata Power has remarkable performance at Tata Power – DDL, Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), Tata Power Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL), Tata Power Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL), Tata Power Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL), Tata Power Ajmer Distribution Limited (TPADL).
- Tata Power has been engaged in the business of distribution of electricity for over a century and is thereby in possession of unrivalled expertise and capabilities to manage the increasingly complex electricity distribution business. The Petitioner intends to leverage multiple synergies and thus cater to the ever-increasing power demand of consumers in the proposed area of supply i.e. the geographically connected area comprising of **Six (6) revenue districts of BESCOM namely Chikkballapura, Kolara, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Tumakuru and Chitradurga.**
- The proposed area for which The Tata Power Company Limited is seeking Distribution License, presently falls within the distribution area of **Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM).**

4. **Legal Status of the Applicant and Registration No.:**
Public Limited Company -CIN [L28920MH1919PLC000567]
5. **Shareholding Pattern:**

Sr. No.	Name of Shareholder	No. of shares held (31st March 2025)
(i)	Promoter & Promoter Group	1497257565
(ii)	Public	1698081982
(iii)	Non Promoter - Non Public	0
(iv)	Shares Underlying DRs	0
(v)	Shares Held By Employee Trust	0
(vi)	Total	3195339547

6. **Management Profile (Board of Directors):**

Sr. No.	Name and Designation	Qualification	Area of Expertise	Experience
1	Mr. Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Non-Independent, Non- Executive Director, Chairperson	• Masters in Computer Applications, Regional Engineering College, Trichy	• Chairman of Tata Sons	Over 36 years
		• Honorary 'Doctor of Letters', Regional Engineering College, Trichy	• Leadership in global business operations	
2	Dr. Praveer Sinha, Managing Director & CEO	• Ph.D. from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	• Power sector expert	Over 36 years
		• Masters in Business Law from National Law School, Bangalore	• Leadership in power generation and distribution	
		• Electrical Engineering degree from Delhi College of Engineering		
3	Ms. Anjali Bansal, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Bachelor's in Computer Engineering	• Expertise in corporate governance	Over 20 years
		• Master's in International Finance and Business from Columbia University	• Experience in technology and financial services sectors	
4	Mr. Ashok Sinha, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Bachelor's in Chemical Engineering from IIT Kanpur	• Extensive experience in the energy sector	Over 38 years
		• MBA from IIM Bangalore	• Former Chairman and Managing Director of BPCL	
5	Mr. Rajiv Mehrishi, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Master's in History	• Former Comptroller and Auditor General of India	Over 40 years in civil services
		• MBA from University of Strathclyde, UK	• Expertise in public administration and finance	
6	Ms. Vibha Padalkar, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Chartered Accountant	• Managing Director and CEO of HDFC Life Insurance Company	Over 30 years
			• Expertise in finance and insurance sectors	
7	Mr. Saurabh Agrawal, Non-Executive Director	• Bachelor's in Chemical Engineering from IIT Roorkee	• Group Chief Financial Officer of Tata Sons	Over 25 years
		• PGDM from IIM Calcutta	• Expertise in corporate finance and strategy	
8	Mr. Sanjay V. Bhandarkar, Independent Non-Executive Director	• MBA from XLRI, Jamshedpur	• Former Managing Director of Rothschild India	Over 30 years
			• Experience in investment banking and corporate finance	
9	Mr. Tarun Bajaj, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Bachelor's in Commerce from Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi University	• Former Revenue Secretary, Government of India	Over 34 years in civil services
		• MBA from Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad	• Expertise in finance, taxation, and public administration	
		• M.Sc. from London School of Economics and Political Science		
10	Pramod Agarwal Independent Non-Executive Director	• B. Tech (Civil) - IIT Mumbai	• Former Chairman and Managing Director ('CMD') of Coal India Limited, Principal Secretary in Government of Madhya Pradesh	Over 30 + years in civil services
		• M. Tech (Design Engineering) IIT Delhi.	• Project management, • Strategic alliances • Tactical planning	

7. **Summary of activities and past experience in similar activities:**
In the electricity distribution sector, Tata Power is providing uninterrupted, affordable, and reliable power supply to consumers across Mumbai, Ajmer, and in the states of Delhi and Odisha.
I. **Distribution License in Mumbai:** The Hon'ble MERC granted a Distribution License to Tata Power (Distribution License No.1 of 2014) for a period of 25 years for Mumbai City, and part of Mumbai Suburban Area, (areas of Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation including area covered under Chene and Varsave). Tata Power Distribution – Mumbai has a customer base of over 0.8 Million consumers in Mumbai across an area of 485 Sq. kms., with a network length of 4,850 CKM and peak demand of 1,076 MW, Tata Power Distribution-Mumbai operates a state-of-the-art electricity distribution network with distribution losses of around 1.24%.
II. **Distribution License in Delhi:** Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power – DDL) was incorporated in July 2002 as a Joint Venture of the Tata Power Company Limited (51%) and the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (49%) on the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. Tata Power – DDL serves customer base of about 2.1 million, manages an electricity distribution network of about 12500 CKM. The AT&C loss levels have been reduced from 53.1% in 2002 to 5.54% in 2025.
III. **Distribution License in Central Odisha:** Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) is a Joint Venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha with the majority stake being held by Tata Power Company (51%). TPCODL serves a customer base of 3.3 million over a vast distribution area of 29,354 sq. km. Starting from 30.49% at the time of acquisition in June 2020, the AT&C losses now stand at 19.6%. TPCODL manages an electricity distribution network of 114119 Ckt. Km.
IV. **Distribution License in Northern Odisha:** Tata Power Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL) was formed in April 2021 as a Joint Venture between Tata Power (51%) and GRIDCO Ltd (49%) to carry out the function of distribution and retail supply of electricity. TPNODL serves customer base of 2 million, spanning across an area of 27920 sq. kms. The AT&C losses for the year stood at 12.6 % at the end of FY 25 which is an achievement of 4.49 % less than the target of 17.09% assigned by the Hon'ble OERC. TPNODL operates 566 power transformers, 81168 distribution transformers and 164629 ckm of Network.
V. **Distribution License in Southern Odisha:** Tata Power Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) started its operations in January 2021. With a consumer base of about 2.2 million, TPSODL spans for around 48,751 Sq. kms. in the southern parts of Odisha. TPSODL manages and operates 112955 ckm of network. The peak demand recorded was 798 MVA.
VI. **Distribution License in Western Odisha:** Tata Power Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL) is a Joint Venture between Tata Power (51%) and GRIDCO Limited (49%) and started its operations in January 2021. TPWODL had a registered customer base of 2.2 million covering 48,373 sq. km. TPWODL manages and operates 692 power transformers, 82752 distribution transformers, 179694 Ckt. Km. of Network. The AT&C losses during FY 25 were 17.1 %. Peak demand recorded was 1780 MW.
VII. **Distribution Franchisee in Ajmer:** Tata Power Ajmer Distribution Limited (TPADL) is a distribution franchisee having signed a Distribution Franchisee Agreement (DFA) with Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited. TPADL is responsible for operating and maintaining the distribution network in Ajmer City and managing the billing and collection across an area of around 200 Sq. Kms. TPADL has contributed towards reduction of AT&C losses from 17.2% to 7.8%.

8. **Proposed area of supply, its description and number of consumers proposed to be served:** The Tata Power Company Limited seeks to undertake distribution and supply of power in the geographically connected area comprising of **Six (6) revenue districts of BESCOM namely Chikkballapur, Kolar, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Tumakuru and Chitradurga.** The aforementioned areas cover either entirely or partially the area of **1. Tumakuru City Corporation 2. Chikkaballapur City Municipal Council 3. Chintamani City Municipal Council 4. Gowribidanur City Municipal Council 5. Shidlaghatta City Municipal Council 6. Kolar City Municipal Council 7. Mulbagal City Municipal Council 8. Robertsonpet City Municipal Council 9. Doddaballapur City Municipal Council 10. Hosakote City Municipal Council 11. Nelamangala City Municipal Council 12. Chanapatana City Municipal Council 13. Kanakapura City Municipal Council 14. Ramanagara City Municipal Council 15. Sira City Municipal Council 16. Chitradurga City Municipal Council 17. Challakere City Municipal Council 18. Hiriyur City Municipal Council**
TPCL will serve more than 186,500 (One hundred eighty-six thousand five hundred) consumers by the end of 3 years from grant of Licence.
9. Contact details of the nodal person from whom copy of application may be obtained for inspection or purchase:

(i)	Name and Designation of Person	Shri Manish Dahake, Group Head - Network Planning & Consumer Engineering (City)
(ii)	Address of the office from where to obtain copy of application for inspection or purchase:	The Tata Power Company Limited, Distribution Division, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400 013, India
(iii)	Detailed application documents along with CD (in English) (on payment of Rs. 150/- in cash or by DD/ Cheque drawn on [The Tata Power Company Limited] payable at Mumbai).	
(iv)	Detailed application documents (in English) (on payment of Rs. 100/-);	
(v)	CD of detailed application document (in English) (on payment of Rs. 50/-);	

10. Website address from where the copy of application and other documents mentioned therein may be downloaded free of cost: Website: **www.tatapower.com**
11. The Tata Power Company Limited hereby confirms and declares that the Applicant duly complies with the additional requirements laid down under Rule 3 of The Distribution of Electricity Licence (Additional Requirements of Capital Adequacy, Creditworthiness and Code of Conduct) Rules, 2005 (amended from time time) notified by the Central Government. TPC has filed Licence Application as detailed hereinabove and also enclosed all the compliance documents as part of the application.
12. In response to the Public Notice published, every person who intends to file suggestions/ objections can submit the same in English or Kannada language in writing to email id: asst.secykerc@gmail.com. In case of difficulty in accessing this feature, the concerned stakeholder can contact the KERC Office on Mobile No.: 8147 144 627 or on email id: asst.secykerc@gmail.com in between 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM on all the working days.
13. A Person who has submitted his / her suggestion / objection through email id mentioned above need not file any hard copy of its submission. Persons who do not have access to electronic media can file their suggestion/ objection in a hard copy addressed to The Secretary, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, Address: No 16C-1, Millers Road, Kaverappa Layout, Vasantha Nagar, Bengaluru Karnataka 560052. within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice, along with proof of service on Mr. V. H. Wagle, Tata Power Company Limited [Tel: (91-22)-67172953 ,Email: vidyadhar.wagle@tatapower.com] and should carry the full name, postal address and E-mail address, if any, of the sender. Suggestions and/or objections received after **5 PM on 23rd June 2026** shall not be considered. Suggestions/Objections filed through any other mode shall not be considered.
14. TPC shall reply to each of the objections /comments received within three days of the receipt of the same but not later than **27th June 2026** for all the objections/comments received till **23rd June 2026.**

Sd/-
Vidyadhar Hari Wagle
Chief - Regulatory
The Tata Power Company Limited

Place: Mumbai
Date: 25th May, 2026

TATA
TATA POWER
THE TATA POWER COMPANY LIMITED,
Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Mumbai - 400 001, India, Tel: (9122) 6665 8282, Fax: (91 22) 6665 8801 Website: www.tatapower.com CIN: L28920MH1919PLC000567

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice inviting suggestions/objection on the Application filed by The Tata Power Company Limited for grant of Distribution Licence under Section 14 and Section 15 of Electricity Act, 2003 for three (3) revenue districts of MESCOM namely Shivamogga, Dakshin Kannada and Udupi

(Case No. MP/04/2026)

1. The Tata Power Company Limited (Tata Power) has filed an Application **(Case No. MP/04/2026)** before the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC/Commission) for grant of Distribution Licence to TPCL for **the geographically connected areas comprising three (3) revenue districts of MESCOM namely Shivamogga, Dakshin Kannada and Udupi** under Sections 14 and 15 of Electricity Act, 2003 ("the Act") read with Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, KERC (Licensing) Regulations, 2004 and other applicable Rules and Regulations. The Commission has directed Tata Power to publish a Public Notice under Section 15 (2) of the Act.
2. **The salient features of the Application are briefly provided below:**

Applicant's Name:	The Tata Power Company Limited
Address of Applicant's Registered Office:	Bombay House 24 Homi Mody Street Mumbai 400 001
Nature of license applied for:	Distribution License under 6th proviso of Section 14 of the Act
Applicant's principal place of business:	**Geographically connected areas comprising Three (3) revenue districts of MESCOM namely Shivamogga, Dakshin Kannada and Udupi**

3. **Other salient features of the Application:**
- The Tata Power Company Limited is catering to the power demand of the consumers across Mumbai, Ajmer, and in the states of Delhi and Odisha.
- Tata Power Distribution – Mumbai has a customer base of over 0.8 million consumers in Mumbai across an area of 485 Sq. kms, with a network length of 4850 CKM and more than 99.99% reliability, which is among the highest in the country.
- Tata Power has remarkable performance at Tata Power – DDL, Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), Tata Power Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL), Tata Power Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL), Tata Power Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL), Tata Power Ajmer Distribution Limited (TPADL).
- Tata Power has been engaged in the business of distribution of electricity for over a century and is thereby in possession of unrivalled expertise and capabilities to manage the increasingly complex electricity distribution business. The Petitioner intends to leverage multiple synergies and thus cater to the ever-increasing power demand of consumers in the proposed area of supply i.e. the geographically connected area comprising of **Three (3) revenue districts of MESCOM namely namely Shivamogga, Dakshin Kannada and Udupi.**
- The proposed area for which The Tata Power Company Limited is seeking Distribution License, presently falls within the distribution area of **Mangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (MESCOM).**

4. **Legal Status of the Applicant and Registration No.:**
Public Limited Company -CIN [L28920MH1919PLC000567]
5. **Shareholding Pattern:**

Sr. No.	Name of Shareholder	No. of shares held (31st March 2025)
(i)	Promoter & Promoter Group	1497257565
(ii)	Public	1698081982
(iii)	Non Promoter - Non Public	0
(iv)	Shares Underlying DRs	0
(v)	Shares Held By Employee Trust	0
(vi)	Total	3195339547

6. **Management Profile (Board of Directors):**

Sr. No.	Name and Designation	Qualification	Area of Expertise	Experience
1	Mr. Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Non-Independent, Non- Executive Director, Chairperson	• Masters in Computer Applications, Regional Engineering College, Trichy	• Chairman of Tata Sons	Over 36 years
		• Honorary 'Doctor of Letters', Regional Engineering College, Trichy	• Leadership in global business operations	
2	Dr. Praveer Sinha, Managing Director & CEO	• Ph.D. from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	• Power sector expert	Over 36 years
		• Master's in Business Law from National Law School, Bangalore	• Leadership in power generation and distribution	
		• Electrical Engineering degree from Delhi College of Engineering		
3	Ms. Anjali Bansal, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Bachelor's in Computer Engineering	• Expertise in corporate governance	Over 20 years
		• Master's in International Finance and Business from Columbia University	• Experience in technology and financial services sectors	
4	Mr. Ashok Sinha, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Bachelor's in Chemical Engineering from IIT Kanpur	• Extensive experience in the energy sector	Over 38 years
		• MBA from IIM Bangalore	• Former Chairman and Managing Director of BPCL	
5	Mr. Rajiv Mehrishi, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Master's in History	• Former Comptroller and Auditor General of India	Over 40 years in civil services
		• MBA from University of Strathclyde, UK	• Expertise in public administration and finance	
6	Ms. Vibha Padalkar, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Chartered Accountant	• Managing Director and CEO of HDFC Life Insurance Company	Over 30 years
			• Expertise in finance and insurance sectors	
7	Mr. Saurabh Agrawal, Non-Executive Director	• Bachelor's in Chemical Engineering from IIT Roorkee	• Group Chief Financial Officer of Tata Sons	Over 25 years
		• PGDM from IIM Calcutta	• Expertise in corporate finance and strategy	
8	Mr. Sanjay V. Bhandarkar, Independent Non-Executive Director	• MBA from XLRI, Jamshedpur	• Former Managing Director of Rothschild India	Over 30 years
			• Experience in investment banking and corporate finance	
9	Mr. Tarun Bajaj, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Bachelor's in Commerce from Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi University	• Former Revenue Secretary, Government of India	Over 34 years in civil services
		• MBA from Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad	• Expertise in finance, taxation, and public administration	
		• M.Sc. from London School of Economics and Political Science		
10	Pramod Agarwal Independent Non-Executive Director	• B. Tech (Civil) - IIT Mumbai	• Former Chairman and Managing Director ('CMD') of Coal India Limited, Principal Secretary in Government of Madhya Pradesh	Over 30 + years in civil services
		• M. Tech (Design Engineering) IIT Delhi.	• Project management, • Strategic alliances • Tactical planning	

7. **Summary of activities and past experience in similar activities:**
In the electricity distribution sector, Tata Power is providing uninterrupted, affordable, and reliable power supply to consumers across Mumbai, Ajmer, and in the states of Delhi and Odisha.
I. **Distribution License in Mumbai:** The Hon'ble MERC granted a Distribution License to Tata Power (Distribution License No.1 of 2014) for a period of 25 years for Mumbai City, and part of Mumbai Suburban Area, (areas of Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation including area covered under Chene and Varsave). Tata Power Distribution – Mumbai has a customer base of over 0.8 Million consumers in Mumbai across an area of 485 Sq. kms., with a network length of 4,850 CKM and peak demand of 1,076 MW, Tata Power Distribution-Mumbai operates a state-of-the-art electricity distribution network with distribution losses of around 1.24%.
II. **Distribution License in Delhi:** Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power – DDL) was incorporated in July 2002 as a Joint Venture of the Tata Power Company Limited (51%) and the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (49%) on the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. Tata Power – DDL serves customer base of about 2.1 million, manages an electricity distribution network of about 12500 CKM. The AT&C loss levels have been reduced from 53.1% in 2002 to 5.54% in 2025.
III. **Distribution License in Central Odisha:** Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) is a Joint Venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha with the majority stake being held by Tata Power Company (51%). TPCODL serves a customer base of 3.3 million over a vast distribution area of 29,354 sq. km. Starting from 30.49% at the time of acquisition in June 2020, the AT&C losses now stand at 19.6%. TPCODL manages an electricity distribution network of 114119 Ckt. Km.
IV. **Distribution License in Northern Odisha:** Tata Power Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL) was formed in April 2021 as a Joint Venture between Tata Power (51%) and GRIDCO Ltd (49%) to carry out the function of distribution and retail supply of electricity. TPNODL serves customer base of 2 million, spanning across an area of 27920 sq. kms. The AT&C losses for the year stood at 12.6 % at the end of FY 25 which is an achievement of 4.49 % less than the target of 17.09% assigned by the Hon'ble OERC. TPNODL operates 566 power transformers, 81168 distribution transformers and 164629 ckm of Network.
V. **Distribution License in Southern Odisha:** Tata Power Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) started its operations in January 2021. With a consumer base of about 2.2 million, TPSODL spans for around 48,751 Sq. kms. in the southern parts of Odisha. TPSODL manages and operates 112955 ckm of network. The peak demand recorded was 798 MVA.
VI. **Distribution License in Western Odisha:** Tata Power Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL) is a Joint Venture between Tata Power (51%) and GRIDCO Limited (49%) and started its operations in January 2021. TPWODL had a registered customer base of 2.2 million covering 48,373 sq. km. TPWODL manages and operates 692 power transformers, 82752 distribution transformers, 179694 Ckt. Km. of Network. The AT&C losses during FY 25 were 17.1 %. Peak demand recorded was 1780 MW.
VII. **Distribution Franchisee in Ajmer:** Tata Power Ajmer Distribution Limited (TPADL) is a distribution franchisee having signed a Distribution Franchisee Agreement (DFA) with Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited. TPADL is responsible for operating and maintaining the distribution network in Ajmer City and managing the billing and collection across an area of around 200 Sq. Kms. TPADL has contributed towards reduction of AT&C losses from 17.2% to 7.8%.

8. **Proposed area of supply, its description and number of consumers proposed to be served:** The Tata Power Company Limited seeks to undertake distribution and supply of power in the geographically connected area comprising of **three (3) revenue districts of MESCOM namely Shivamogga, Dakshin Kannada and Udupi.** The aforementioned areas cover either entirely or partially the area of **1. Shivamogga City Corporation 2. Mangaluru City Corporation 3. Udupi City Municipal Council 4. Shivamogga Mahanagara Palike 5. Ullal City Municipal Council**
TPCL will serve more than 34,600 (Thirty-Four Thousand Six Hundred) consumers by the end of 3 years from grant of Licence.
9. **Contact details of the nodal person from whom copy of application may be obtained for inspection or purchase:**

(i)	Name and Designation of Person	Shri. Manish Dahake, Group Head - Network Planning & Consumer Engineering (City)
(ii)	Address of the office from where to obtain copy of application for inspection or purchase:	The Tata Power Company Limited, Distribution Division, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400 013, India.
(iii)	Detailed application documents along with CD (in English) (on payment of Rs. 150/- in cash or by DD/ Cheque drawn on [The Tata Power Company Limited] payable at Mumbai).	
(iv)	Detailed application documents (in English) (on payment of Rs. 100/-);	
(v)	CD of detailed application document (in English) (on payment of Rs. 50/-);	

10. **Website address from where the copy of application and other documents mentioned therein may be downloaded free of cost:** Website: **www.tatapower.com**
11. The Tata Power Company Limited hereby confirms and declares that the Applicant duly complies with the additional requirements laid down under Rule 3 of The Distribution of Electricity Licence (Additional Requirements of Capital Adequacy, Creditworthiness and Code of Conduct) Rules, 2005 (amended from time time) notified by the Central Government. TPC has filed Licence Application as detailed hereinabove and also enclosed all the compliance documents as part of the application.
12. In response to the Public Notice published, every person who intends to file suggestions/ objections can submit the same in English or Kannada language in writing to email id: asst.secykerc@gmail.com. In case of difficulty in accessing this feature, the concerned stakeholder can contact the KERC Office on Mobile No.: 8147 144 627 or on email id: asst.secykerc@gmail.com in between 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM on all the working days.
13. A Person who has submitted his / her suggestion / objection through email id mentioned above need not file any hard copy of its submission. Persons who do not have access to electronic media can file their suggestion/ objection in a hard copy addressed to The Secretary, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, Address: No 16C-1, Millers Road, Kaverappa Layout, Vasantha Nagar, Bengaluru Karnataka 560052. within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice, along with proof of service on Mr. V. H. Wagle, Tata Power Company Limited [Tel: (91-22)-67172953 ,Email: vidyadhar.wagle@tatapower.com] and should carry the full name, postal address and E-mail address, if any, of the sender. Suggestions and/or objections received after **5 PM on 23rd June 2026** shall not be considered. Suggestions/Objections filed through any other mode shall not be considered.
14. TPC shall reply to each of the objections /comments received within three days of the receipt of the same but not later than **27th June 2026** for all the objections/comments received till **23rd June 2026.**

Sd/-
Vidyadhar Hari Wagle
Chief - Regulatory
The Tata Power Company Limited

Place: Mumbai
Date: 25th May, 2026

‘Not necessary’: Home ministry stalls K’taka’s Hate Speech Bill

Says ‘existing legal framework’ adequate, no need for new law

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Amit Shah-led Home ministry has blocked Karnataka’s Bill on hate speech on the grounds that “existing legal framework” was adequate and a new law “may not be necessary”, documents show.

The Centre State Division of the Home ministry has conveyed its stance on the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill.

In February this year, the state government sent the Bill to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for President Draupadi Murmu’s assent after Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot refused to clear it.

According to the stringent Bill, committing hate crime (including hate speech) will attract a jail term of one year, extendable up to seven, with a fine of Rs 50,000. Subsequent offences have up to seven years imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1 lakh.

MHA COMMUNICATION TO STATE

> “...it is stated that the issues sought to be addressed are already substantially covered under the existing provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and other prevailing laws. Enactment of a separate state legislation may result in duplication and lack of uniformity.

“...it is stated that the issues sought to be addressed are already substantially covered under the existing provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and other prevailing laws,” the home ministry has said in its communication dated May 12, which *DH* has seen.

“Enactment of a separate state legislation may result in duplication and lack of uniformity.”

Karnataka’s law department has now asked the Home department to furnish a reply.

In December 2025, the Hate Speech Bill was hurriedly passed in the Karnataka Assembly even as the debate was incomplete, prompting an Opposition walkout when Speaker U T Khader did not agree to further discussions or a House committee to vet the proposed law.

The BJP has opposed the Bill, arguing that it would turn the police into “Hitlers” and infringe upon freedom of expression.

In January this year, Governor Gehlot sent back the Bill because it would have “a severe chilling effect on constitutionally-protected democratic discourse.”

The Bill defines ‘hate speech’ as any expression made to cause injury, disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will in “public view.”

Gehlot said the term “public view” is undefined, “potentially covering private WhatsApp groups, limited-audience social media posts or even classroom discussions...granting unanalysed discretion” to authorities.

HC confirms jail term to driver who denied accident despite shifting victim to hospital

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has confirmed six months’ simple imprisonment imposed on a driver in an accident case observing that the accused driver, who had shifted the injured in his own tempo to the hospital, denied the very accident.

The court noted that there is no reason to interfere with the order of the trial court, especially when the accused driver has denied the very accident itself.

The accident occurred at about 5 pm on ring road near Ganapathi Temple at Rajivnagar in Mysuru on May 6, 2009.

The deceased Siddappa alias Gurusiddappa was riding a bicycle when a goods tempo driven by Nagaraju B knocked him down from behind. A severely injured Gurusiddappa succumbed to his injuries in a hospital.

The prosecution’s key eyewitness Veerabhadra, who was riding a motorcycle behind the deceased Gurusiddappa’s bicycle, had testified that the accident occurred due to rash and negligent driving by goods tempo driver Nagaraju.

According to the eyewitness, the deceased was carrying a big

lunchbox and that it was Nagaraju who took injured Siddappa to the hospital in the goods tempo.

On February 14, 2017, the trial court held Nagaraju guilty for causing death by negligent act under IPC section 304A and imposed six months’ simple imprisonment and held guilty under IPC section 279 for rash driving and under Indian Motor Vehicles Act. Nagaraju moved the high court after the order of conviction was upheld by the Sessions court in Mysuru in August 2017.

In the high court, Nagaraju reiterated that except the eyewitness Veerabhadra’s testimony, there is no material to establish that he was responsible for the accident. It was further submitted that since more than 17 years have passed since the accident, he should not be sent to jail.

Justice V Srishananda noted that the petitioner-driver went to the extent of denying the very accident but further failed to place his version about the incident on record either by examining himself or any witness about the incident.

“In a matter of this nature, the accused is bound to place his version on record after the prosecution establishes its case. But the accused has deliberately failed to make use of such an opportunity in placing his version on record. More so, when he himself has shifted the injured in his own vehicle to the hospital,” Justice Srishananda said.

The court further said, “Firstly, the petitioner has denied the very accident itself even after shifting the injured in his own vehicle. Further, PW4 (Veerabhadra) being the true and honest witness has been cross-examined to portray that he is deposing falsely. Secondly, since the petitioner has not placed any version about the incident and because of his rashness a valuable human life has been lost. Thus, following the dictum of the Supreme Court in the case of State of Punjab vs Saurabh Bakshi, the order of imprisonment of six months for the offence punishable under Section 304A of IPC is justified in the facts and circumstances of the case.”

Jail guard arrested for smuggling tobacco products into prison

MYSURU, DHNS: A prison guard, who is responsible for ensuring that prohibited items do not enter the prison, was caught by the police while allegedly smuggling tobacco products into the prison here.

H R Ramesh of Mysuru Central Prisons is the arrested guard. Ramesh was deployed for the security of the inmates at the jail hospital.

The jail authorities, monitoring the CCTV camera, saw him entering the jail and going to the kitchen. He was also seen speaking to an undertrial.

Under surveillance

Suspicious of his movements, he was kept under surveillance.

On May 22, he tried to enter the jail premises at 5.45 pm.

Assistant Jailer N Shivakumar checked him and found a pack of chopped tobacco leaves, two packets of tobacco powder and four packets of beedis concealed in his undergarments and socks.

The products were seized. The jail officers have reported it to the higher authorities. A case has been registered against Ramesh at the Mandi Police Station.

He was arrested and sent to Nanjangud jail, sources said.

TATA
TATA POWER

THE TATA POWER COMPANY LIMITED,

Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Mumbai - 400 001, India, Tel: (9122) 6665 8282, Fax: (91 22) 6665 8801 Website: www.tatapower.com CIN: L28920MH1919PLC000567

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice inviting suggestions/objection on the Application filed by The Tata Power Company Limited for grant of Distribution Licence under Section 14 and Section 15 of Electricity Act, 2003 for four (4) revenue districts of GESCOM namely Ballari, Kalaburagi (Gulbarga), Raichur and Yadgir.

(Case No. MP/05/2026)

1. The Tata Power Company Limited (Tata Power) has filed an Application **(Case No. MP /05/2026)** before the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC/Commission) for grant of Distribution Licence to TPCL for **the geographically connected areas comprising of four (4) revenue districts of GESCOM namely Ballari, Kalaburagi (Gulbarga), Raichur and Yadgir.** under Sections 14 and 15 of Electricity Act, 2003 (“the Act”) read with Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, KERC (Licensing) Regulations, 2004 and other applicable Rules and Regulations. The Commission has directed Tata Power to publish a Public Notice under Section 15 (2) of the Act.
2. **The salient features of the Application are briefly provided below:**

Applicant’s Name:	The Tata Power Company Limited
Address of Applicant’s Registered Office:	Bombay House 24 Homi Mody Street Mumbai 400 001
Nature of license applied for:	Distribution License under 6th proviso of Section 14 of the Act
Applicant’s principal place of business:	**Geographically connected areas comprising four (4) revenue districts of GESCOM namely Ballari, Kalaburagi (Gulbarga), Raichur and Yadgir**

3. **Other salient features of the Application:**
- The Tata Power Company Limited is catering to the power demand of the consumers across Mumbai, Ajmer, and in the states of Delhi and Odisha.
- Tata Power Distribution – Mumbai has a customer base of over 0.8 million consumers in Mumbai across an area of 485 Sq. kms, with a network length of 4850 CKM and more than 99.99% reliability, which is among the highest in the country.
- Tata Power has remarkable performance at Tata Power - DDL, Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), Tata Power Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL), Tata Power Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL), Tata Power Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL), Tata Power Ajmer Distribution Limited (TPADL).
- Tata Power has been engaged in the business of distribution of electricity for over a century and is thereby in possession of unrivalled expertise and capabilities to manage the increasingly complex electricity distribution business. The Petitioner intends to leverage multiple synergies and thus cater to the ever-increasing power demand of consumers in the proposed area of supply i.e. the geographically connected area comprising of **four (4) revenue districts of GESCOM namely Ballari, Kalaburagi (Gulbarga), Raichur and Yadgir.**
- The proposed area for which The Tata Power Company Limited is seeking Distribution License, presently falls within the distribution area of **Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited (GESCOM).**

4. **Legal Status of the Applicant and Registration No.:**
Public Limited Company -CIN [L28920MH1919PLC000567]
5. **Shareholding Pattern:**

Sr. No.	Name of Shareholder	No. of shares held (31st March 2025)
(i)	Promoter & Promoter Group	1497257565
(ii)	Public	1698081982
(iii)	Non Promoter - Non Public	0
(iv)	Shares Underlying DRs	0
(v)	Shares Held By Employee Trust	0
(vi)	Total	3195339547

6. **Management Profile (Board of Directors):**

Sr. No.	Name and Designation	Qualification	Area of Expertise	Experience
1	Mr. Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Non-Independent, Non- Executive Director, Chairperson	• Masters in Computer Applications, Regional Engineering College, Trichy	• Chairman of Tata Sons	Over 36 years
		• Honorary ‘Doctor of Letters’, Regional Engineering College, Trichy	• Leadership in global business operations	
2	Dr. Praveer Sinha, Managing Director & CEO	• Ph.D. from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	• Power sector expert	Over 36 years
		• Master’s in Business Law from National Law School, Bangalore	• Leadership in power generation and distribution	
		• Electrical Engineering degree from Delhi College of Engineering		
3	Ms. Anjali Bansal, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Bachelor’s in Computer Engineering	• Expertise in corporate governance	Over 20 years
		• Master’s in International Finance and Business from Columbia University	• Experience in technology and financial services sectors	
4	Mr. Ashok Sinha, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Bachelor’s in Chemical Engineering from IIT Kanpur	• Extensive experience in the energy sector	Over 38 years
		• MBA from IIM Bangalore	• Former Chairman and Managing Director of BPCL	
5	Mr. Rajiv Mehrishi, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Master’s in History	• Former Comptroller and Auditor General of India	Over 40 years in civil services
		• MBA from University of Strathclyde, UK	• Expertise in public administration and finance	
6	Ms. Vibha Padalkar, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Chartered Accountant	• Managing Director and CEO of HDFC Life Insurance Company	Over 30 years
			• Expertise in finance and insurance sectors	
7	Mr. Saurabh Agrawal, Non-Executive Director	• Bachelor’s in Chemical Engineering from IIT Roorkee	• Group Chief Financial Officer of Tata Sons	Over 25 years
		• PGDM from IIM Calcutta	• Expertise in corporate finance and strategy	
8	Mr. Sanjay V. Bhandarkar, Independent Non-Executive Director	• MBA from XLRI, Jamshedpur	• Former Managing Director of Rothschild India	Over 30 years
			• Experience in investment banking and corporate finance	
9	Mr. Tarun Bajaj, Independent Non-Executive Director	• Bachelor’s in Commerce from Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi University	• Former Revenue Secretary, Government of India	Over 34 years in civil services
		• MBA from Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad	• Expertise in finance, taxation, and public administration	
		• M.Sc. from London School of Economics and Political Science		
10	Pramod Agarwal Independent Non-Executive Director	• B. Tech (Civil) - IIT Mumbai	• Former Chairman and Managing Director (‘CMD’) of Coal India Limited, Principal Secretary in Government of Madhya Pradesh	Over 30 + years in civil services
		• M. Tech (Design Engineering) IIT Delhi.	• Project management, • Strategic alliances • Tactical planning	

7. **Summary of activities and past experience in similar activities:**
In the electricity distribution sector, Tata Power is providing uninterrupted, affordable, and reliable power supply to consumers across Mumbai, Ajmer, and in the states of Delhi and Odisha.
   I. **Distribution License in Mumbai:** The Hon’ble MERC granted a Distribution License to Tata Power (Distribution License No.1 of 2014) for a period of 25 years for Mumbai City, and part of Mumbai Suburban Area, (areas of Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation including area covered under Chene and Varsave). Tata Power Distribution – Mumbai has a customer base of over 0.8 million consumers in Mumbai across an area of 485 Sq. kms., with a network length of 4,850 CKM and peak demand of 1,076 MW, Tata Power Distribution-Mumbai operates a state-of-the-art electricity distribution network with distribution losses of around 1.24%.
   II. **Distribution License in Delhi:** Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power – DDL) was incorporated in July 2002 as a Joint Venture of the Tata Power Company Limited (51%) and the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (49%) on the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. Tata Power – DDL serves customer base of about 2.1 million, manages an electricity distribution network of about 12500 CKM. The AT&C loss levels have been reduced from 53.1% in 2002 to 5.54% in 2025.
   III. **Distribution License in Central Odisha:** Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) is a Joint Venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha with the majority stake being held by Tata Power Company (51%). TPCODL serves a customer base of 3.3 million over a vast distribution area of 29,354 sq. km. Starting from 30.49% at the time of acquisition in June 2020, the AT&C losses now stand at 19.6%. TPCODL manages an electricity distribution network of 114119 Ckt. Km.
   IV. **Distribution License in Northern Odisha:** Tata Power Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL) was formed in April 2021 as a Joint Venture between Tata Power (51%) and GRIDCO Ltd (49%) to carry out the function of distribution and retail supply of electricity. TPNODL serves customer base of 2 million, spanning across an area of 27920 sq. kms. The AT&C losses for the year stood at 12.6 % at the end of FY 25 which is an achievement of 4.49 % less than the target of 17.09% assigned by the Hon’ble OERC. TPNODL operates 566 power transformers, 81168 distribution transformers and 164629 ckm of Network.
   V. **Distribution License in Southern Odisha:** Tata Power Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) started its operations in January 2021. With a consumer base of about 2.2 million, TPSODL spans for around 48,751 Sq. kms. in the southern parts of Odisha. TPSODL manages and operates 112955 ckm of network. The peak demand recorded was 798 MVA.
   VI. **Distribution License in Western Odisha:** Tata Power Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL) is a Joint Venture between Tata Power (51%) and GRIDCO Limited (49%) and started its operations in January 2021. TPWODL had a registered customer base of 2.2 million covering 48,373 sq. km. TPWODL manages and operates 692 power transformers, 82752 distribution transformers, 179694 Ckt. Km. of Network. The AT&C losses during FY 25 were 17.1%. Peak demand recorded was 1780 MW.
   VII. **Distribution Franchisee in Ajmer:** Tata Power Ajmer Distribution Limited (TPADL) is a distribution franchisee having signed a Distribution Franchisee Agreement (DFA) with Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited. TPADL is responsible for operating and maintaining the distribution network in Ajmer City and managing the billing and collection across an area of around 200 Sq. Kms. TPADL has contributed towards reduction of AT&C losses from 17.2% to 7.8%.
8. **Proposed area of supply, its description and number of consumers proposed to be served:** The Tata Power Company Limited seeks to undertake distribution and supply of power in the geographically connected area comprising **four (4) revenue districts of GESCOM namely Ballari, Kalaburagi (Gulbarga), Raichur and Yadgir.** The aforementioned areas cover either entirely or partially the area of **1. Ballari City Corporation 2. Kalaburagi City Corporation 3. Raichur City Corporation 4. Siraguppa City Municipal Council 5. Shahabad City Municipal Council 6. Sindhanur City Municipal Council 7. Shahapur City Municipal Council 8. Surapur City Municipal Council 9. Yadgir City Municipal Council**
TPC will serve more than 51,000 (Fifty-one Thousand) consumers by the end of 3 years from Grant of Licence.
9. **Contact details of the nodal person from whom copy of application may be obtained for inspection or purchase:**

(i)	Name and Designation of Person	Shri. Manish Dahake, Group Head - Network Planning & Consumer Engineering (City)
(ii)	Address of the office from where to obtain copy of application for inspection or purchase:	The Tata Power Company Limited, Distribution Division, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400 013, India.
(iii)	Detailed application documents along with CD (in English) (on payment of Rs. 150/- in cash or by DD/ Cheque drawn on [The Tata Power Company Limited] payable at Mumbai).	
(iv)	Detailed application documents (in English) (on payment of Rs. 100/-);	
(v)	CD of detailed application document (in English) (on payment of Rs. 50/-);	

10. **Website address from where the copy of application and other documents mentioned therein may be downloaded free of cost:** Website: **www.tatapower.com**
11. The Tata Power Company Limited hereby confirms and declares that the Applicant duly complies with the additional requirements laid down under Rule 3 of The Distribution of Electricity Licence (Additional Requirements of Capital Adequacy, Creditworthiness and Code of Conduct) Rules, 2005 (amended from time time) notified by the Central Government. TPC has filed Licence Application as detailed hereinabove and also enclosed all the compliance documents as part of the application.
12. In response to the Public Notice published, every person who intends to file suggestions/ objections can submit the same in English or Kannada language in writing to email id: asst.secykerc@gmail.com. In case of difficulty in accessing this feature, the concerned stakeholder can contact the KERC Office on Mobile No.: 8147 144 627 or on email id: asst.secykerc@gmail.com in between 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM on all the working days.
13. A Person who has submitted his / her suggestion / objection through email id mentioned above need not file any hard copy of its submission. Persons who do not have access to electronic media can file their suggestion/ objection in a hard copy addressed to The Secretary, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, Address: No 16C-1, Millers Road, Kaverappa Layout, Vasantha Nagar, Bengaluru Karnataka 560052. within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice, along with proof of service on Mr. V. H. Wagle, Tata Power Company Limited [Tel: (91-22)-67172953 ,Email: vidyadhar.wagle@tatapower.com] and should carry the full name, postal address and E-mail address, if any, of the sender. Suggestions and/or objections received after **5 PM on 23rd June 2026** shall not be considered. Suggestions/Objections filed through any other mode shall not be considered.
14. TPC shall reply to each of the objections /comments received within three days of the receipt of the same but not later than **27th June 2026** for all the objections/comments received till **23rd June 2026.**

Sd/-
Vidyadhar Hari Wagle
Chief - Regulatory
The Tata Power Company Limited

Place: Mumbai
Date: 25th May, 2026

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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LX ADDL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BANGALORE (CCH-61)
MISC PETITION: 549 OF 2017

BETWEEN:
Smt. Vijayalakshmi,
W/o Late B.R. Ramakrishna,
Residing at: No.3, Link Road,
2nd Cross, Malleshwaram,
Bengaluru-560003
and others ...Petitioners
AND:
V. Chandrashekar and others.
...Respondents

Notice/Summons to the Respondent No. 1(a) and 1(b) Under Order V Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure 1908.

1(a). Smt. Lakshmamma @ Lakshmi,
W/o Late V. Chandrashekar, Major,
R/at 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Kaverinagar,
R.T. Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560 040.
1(b).Sri Vasanthkumar,
S/o Late V. Chandrashekar, Major,
R/at 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Kaverinagar,
R.T. Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560040.
...Respondents

Whereas, the Petitioners herein have filed the above Miscellaneous Petition No. 549/2017 before this Hon’ble Court seeking revocation of the said Succession certificate;

Whereas, Respondent No. 1 is deceased and the application for brining legal Representatives namely Respondent No.1(a) and 1(b) have been filed;

Wherefore the Respondent No 1(a) and 1(b) are hereby called upon to appear before this Court either in person or through a pleader duly instructed on **15.07.2026 at 11 AM** to show cause against the Petitioner failing which the above Petition will be heard in your absence by considering the Respondent No 1(a) and (b) as absent.

Given under my dated and the seal of this Hon’ble Court dated 22nd April 2026 at Bengaluru.

By the Order of the Court
***Sd/-* Senior Sheristedar**
City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Petitioner:
B N PRAKASH, ADVOCATE
LAWYERS INC
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS
No.15/2, V.S. Raju Road, 12th Block,
Kumara Park West, Bengaluru-560 020.
Ph: +91 (080) 4155 3014

PERSONAL

Change of Name

I, BHAVANA V, D/O Venkatesh K S, residing at NO.002 Bhargava Dhama No. 56/56A NR Punjab National Bank Anandnagar, Bangalore 560024, hereby declare that my name shall henceforth be written and known as Bhavana Venkatesh for all purposes. . . . . .

I, G PRASADA REDDY S/o G SREENIVASA REDDY have changed my name to G PRASAD REDDY vide affidavit dated: 25/5/2026 Before Notary Vanajakshi. R Bangalore. . . . . .

I, MARLYN RUPIKA, have changed my daughter’s name from SONIYA RACHEL ADVANI to SONIYA RACHEL, vide affidavit dated 25/05/2026 before notary M.Rajendra, Bangalore. . . . . .

I, LAKSHMI W/o G PRASAD REDDY have changed my name to LAKSHMI KOTHANUR MUNIREDDY vide affidavit dated: 25/5/2026 Before Notary Vanajakshi. R Bangalore. . . . . .

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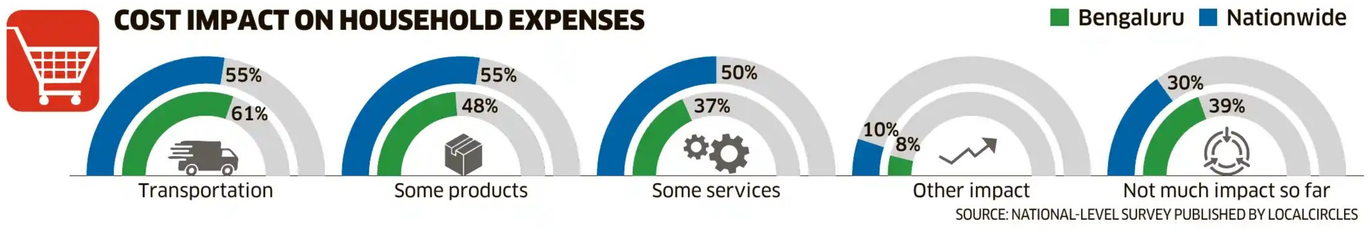

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HELP US OUT

- Regulation of payouts
- Aid from aggregator platforms
- Standardised delivery fees

BALLOONING BUDGET: Fast-running meters at fuel pumps to pilfer pockets more for food bills, travel and more

Cab drivers turn to govt as earnings dwindle

Gig workers' grievances fall on deaf ears

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Claiming that the consecutive fuel price hikes since May 15 have significantly impacted them, transport associations have urged the state government to step in and provide relief.

Tanveer Pasha, president of Ola Uber Drivers and Owners' Association, said many drivers were unable to manage the situation.

"Currently, along with fuel, prices of almost everything are increasing in Bengaluru. Rent is at an all-time high. Drivers are finding it difficult to manage the rising cost of living and high fuel prices. Many are temporarily shifting to other professions. We saw this happen during Covid-19 pandemic as well," he told *DH*, adding that if the government does not offer any help, the trend will continue and will impact the city's transport ecosystem, which is already worsening.

Protest planned

He said if no aid is provided either by the state or union government, workers in the sector will be forced to stage a protest in the coming days.

Radhakrishna Holla, president, Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association, urged the state government to "reconsider taxes imposed on fuel".

"At the same time, unnecessary government expenditure should be reduced to ease the financial burden on the public," he said, adding that the continuous rise in fuel prices was having a direct impact on goods transport, cabs, buses and all essential commodities.

Hit by rains

The impact of fuel price hikes is being felt by bike taxi drivers as well, even as pre-monsoon rains continue to impact ride bookings.

"With heavy rains hitting the city, our ride bookings have already been limited, and on top of that, fuel prices are adding to our worries. We will be grateful if either the government or the ride aggregator platforms can offer some help," said Nagaraj Gowda, who joined the bike taxi workforce full-time three years back.

The Bike Taxi Welfare Association plans to reach out to ride-aggregator platforms, demanding an increase in minimum fares. "Currently, on average, drivers make about Rs 14/km. We are requesting the platforms to increase this by about Rs 2, as this would help offset the rising fuel prices," said Adi Narayana M, associations' president.

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Gig workers in the city are having trouble reaching out to representatives of their online aggregator platforms with grievances about the impact that the staggered hike in petrol price has had on their income.

With petrol prices crossing the Rs 110 mark on Monday, hundreds of gig workers across the city are feeling the pinch. "After working for over 12 hours, on paper it will show that I've earned about Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500, but what I get in hand at the end of the day is only about Rs 500, after all the aggregator deductions. The petrol fare is barely Rs 500 or less. Now, with petrol prices rising, this amount is shrinking every day," Raju, who makes approximately 30-35 deliveries every day in the Central Business District (CBD) area, told *DH*.

Several delivery agents have been attempting to reach out to the concerned aggregators with their grievances, but without luck. "Despite the continuous petrol hike, the aggregator platforms are yet to reach out to the gig workers. We have tried multiple times to reach out to platforms like Swiggy and Zomato, but have received no response from their end. From the union's side, we will soon be sending out a letter to various quick delivery platforms, demanding an increase in delivery payouts, as it would offer much-needed respite to the workers," Inayath Ali, president of Karnataka App-based Workers Union told *DH*.

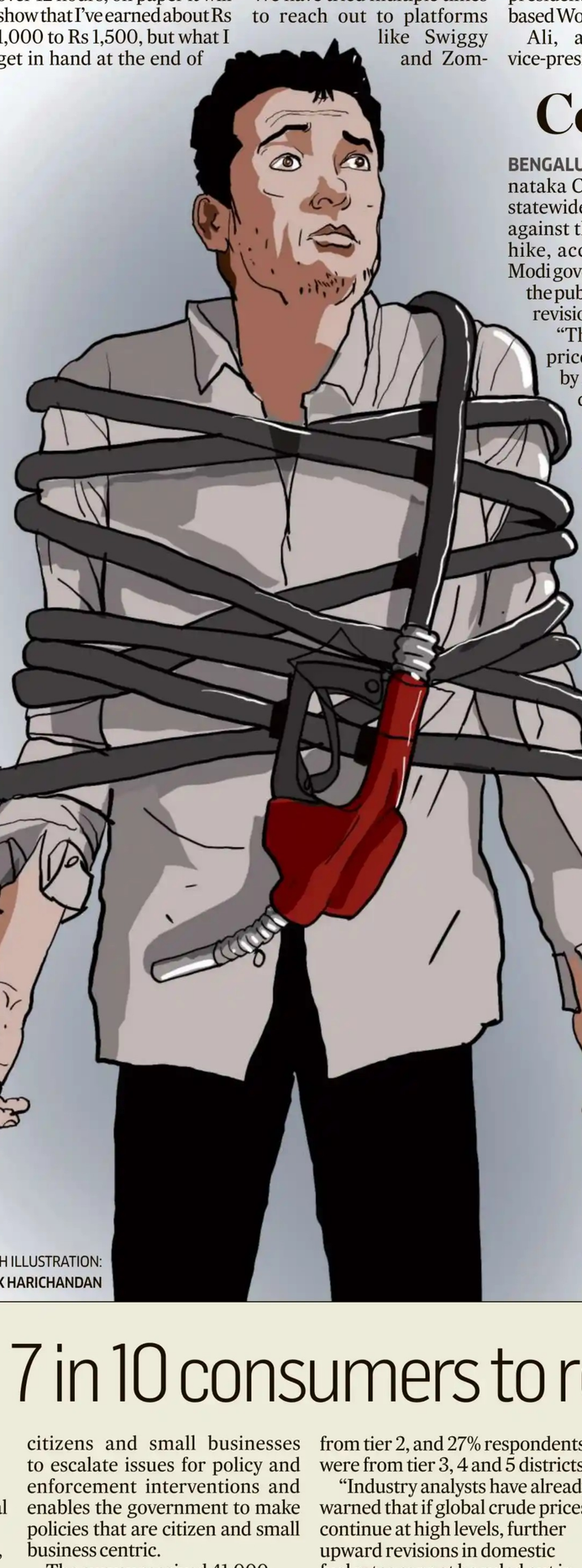
Ali, also the national vice-president of Indian Federation of App-Based Transport Workers' Union, said that, on average, a gig worker earned a net income of Rs 500 after a 14-hour workday.

Gig worker unions have urged the government to bring in stringent regulations on delivery payouts.

"Currently, delivery platforms use various strategies to lure delivery agents. If they notice that you are sticking to a particular platform, the competitor will reach out to you, offering better payout. But soon, the payout will drop. Some workers don't even earn Rs 10 per delivery. When platforms are questioned, they say it's because of poor ratings," rued Ali.

Switching to EVs

Zeeshan Khan, 24, is planning to switch to an EV bike, to beat the rising costs. "Some of my friends in the field have already done this. There are some inexpensive electric scooter options available. I've been doing delivery work for about two years now, and compared to when I started, I'm making less money now. I am trying to figure work out ways of improving my savings," he said.



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Congress plans statewide stir

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Congress will hold a statewide protest on May 30 against the recent fuel price hike, accusing the BJP-led Modi government of "looting" the public through repeated revisions.

"The petrol and diesel prices have been hiked by Rs 7.52 per litre in 11 days through four revisions. This is a fuel loot, as it burdens farmers, salaried employees, homemakers, small traders and the poor, and impacts LPG, commercial cylinders and CNG, pushing up transport and essential goods costs. Petrol in Bengaluru has crossed Rs110 per litre while diesel is near Rs 99," said AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, addressing a joint press meet along with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar in Bengaluru, on Monday,

The party claimed the Centre collected Rs 43 lakh crore in petrol-diesel taxes since 2014 and drew Rs 14 lakh crore from RBI, totalling Rs 57 lakh crore."The hike in fuel price despite lower crude prices is anti-national. We demand cut in fuel price. The party workers will stage demonstrations at district and taluk headquarters demanding an immediate rollback," said Shivakumar.

Hitting back, Leader of Opposition R Ashoka said the Centre does not gain from the hike but Karnataka government would earn Rs 6,000 crore as VAT. "Petrol in Delhi is Rs 99.50 per litre and under Rs 99.70 in Gujarat, UP and Haryana. But Karnataka charges Rs 107.70 due to state VAT," he said.

Ashoka accused Siddaramaiah of "playing politics amid a global fuel crisis" due to the ongoing war. "Over 60 countries are rationing petrol but the Modi government has not imposed any restrictions," he said, alleging the CM falsely blames Centre despite claiming to be "expert economist".

Showers shield consumers from rise in prices of veggies

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Good pre-monsoon showers seem to have shielded the citizens from a rise in vegetable costs. Prices of most of the vegetables had increased significantly from mid-April, owing to extreme heat. However, good premonsoon showers over the last 10 days have eased the situation and prices have come down marginally, traders said.

Heat sensitive vegetables were the most hit and the prices that had skyrocketed have now come down.

Gradual increase

"For instance, price of beans that had crossed Rs 100 is now slowly settling down at Rs 70. Since the rains have started, gradually, supplies will improve and prices will come down," said Sreedhar M from the Electronics City Vegetable Vendors' Association.

Similarly, prices of onion at the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) yard in Yeshwantpur have also remained low.

"Onions are coming from Vijayapura and the yield there is high this year. Though the transportation cost has increased, prices have remained low," said Ravi Shankar from the Yeshwantpur APMC yard.

However, the prices may not remain low for a long time since the rise in transportation costs will finally be passed on to consumers.

Lorry rents

"The lorry companies will definitely increase rents and as transportation costs increase, it will eventually result in an increase in prices of vegetables. It will reflect in the market soon," Ravi Shankar said.

Sreedhar, however, opined that the market might hold on to the prices for a little longer.

"If there is another rise in fuel costs, prices will definitely increase. The transportation companies may wait a little longer and hence, prices are not increasing yet," he said.

Hoteliers hint at steep price rise as minimum wages & fuel prices increase

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government's decision to hike the minimum wages by as much as 60% will impact the hoteliers heavily and as a result, prices of food items might go up drastically, the hoteliers said on Monday. The fuel price hike is also expected to indirectly contribute to the hike.

The price of one plate of idli may touch Rs 80 and masala dosa might cost Rs 150, they warned.

"The minimum wages have increased by almost 60%. So, prices of food items will have to be increased. A plate of idli which now costs Rs 50 may rise up to Rs 80 and masala dosa which now costs around Rs 80 - Rs 90 may shoot up to Rs 150," said G K Shetty, President, Karnataka State Hotels Association (KSHA).

Prices of almost every item in the menu might go up, hoteliers warned. Vegetarian meals priced at Rs 150 - Rs 200 may go up to Rs 250 - Rs 300 and biryani dishes could rise from Rs 300-Rs 350 to nearly Rs 500.The rise in minimum wages will burden the industry which has already been hit by continuous increase in LPG prices, Shetty said.

"Operating costs will increase drastically. This will particularly affect the small and family-run establishments that are already struggling

with rising expenses. The price of commercial LPG cylinders has been hiked from Rs 1,884 to Rs 3,152 in just a few months. Groceries, power tariffs, garbage cess have all increased," he said.

The hospitality industry had earlier appealed to the government to classify them separately while implementing minimum wage revisions.

Hoteliers in Bengaluru said that they have no choice but to increase prices of select items. Anish Shashtri, owner of a Darshni, told *DH*, "It has hit us twice. We have to increase wages of workers and pay for increased transportation costs. We cannot meet the expenses unless we increase prices of dishes, especially the oil-based items like dosa, puri and our meal packages that come with multiple dishes." he said.

Rohit Shankar, owner of Way Cafe in Kalyan Nagar, said "I run a small eatery serving breakfast, lunch and dinner - mostly rice items. I had two wokers, but I have only one as I had to send the other off because I can't afford to pay him. I have increased prices of some dishes by Rs 20 per plate".

PRESERVING THE PENNY

7 in 10 consumers to reduce non-essential travel: Survey

BENGALURU, DHNS

Seven in 10 consumers say they will reduce non-essential travel and outings to tackle the rising petrol and diesel prices, according to a latest survey.

The findings of the national-level survey were published by LocalCircles on Monday.

LocalCircles is a community social media platform that enables citizens and small businesses to escalate issues for policy and enforcement interventions and enables the government to make policies that are citizen and small business centric.

The survey received 41,000 responses from household consumers in 308 districts. While 62% respondents were men, 38% were women. As many as 42% of respondents were from tier 1, 31% from tier 2, and 27% respondents were from tier 3, 4 and 5 districts.

"Industry analysts have already warned that if global crude prices continue at high levels, further upward revisions in domestic fuel rates cannot be ruled out in coming weeks, intensifying the pressure on household finances," a release said.

When asked how they will cope with rising petrol/diesel prices, 71% indicated they will reduce non-essential travel, while 35% said they will "combine trips and optimise travel frequency".

The other responses included 29% each for continuing with the current travel model and a shift to lower-cost travel options like vehicle pooling, public transport, bike and cheaper app-based service.

"To sum up, 7 in 10 consumers surveyed say they will reduce non-essential travel and outings to cope with rising petrol/diesel prices," the survey said.

Five in 10 respondents said that the "cost of transportation, products and services has increased due to multiple rounds of petrol/diesel price increases".

In Bengaluru, 61% of the respondents said that the cost of transportation had increased due to multiple hikes in fuel prices, while 48% said that the cost of some products had increased. About 37% of respondents replied that the cost of some services increased, while 39% said that they did not face much impact so far.

On the other hand, 57% of the respondents from Bengaluru said they will reduce non-essential travel, 19% said they will move to low-cost transportation, 29% said they will combine trips, 30% said they will reduce other household spends and 21% said they will procure products and services from cheaper or nearby stores.

About 22% of the respondents said they haven't experienced much impact, while 14% said they had delayed discretionary purchases, travel or leisure activities and 17% said they were not doing anything specifically to lower transportation-related costs.

Pension pull-out pins Karnataka's pehalwans on the mat

SHRINIDHI R
DHARWAD, DHNS

Tears well up in the eyes of 58-year-old Shivanand every time he speaks about the government pension that has suddenly stopped.

"I have participated in wrestling competitions across the state for more than 25 years and have trained over 50 young wrestlers. Age no longer permits me to continue in the sport. My family survives on this pension, but for the last four months the government has stopped it," he said.

Shivanand's story mirrors the plight of nearly 7,500 wrestlers across Karnataka excluded from the monthly pension scheme meant for retired and veteran wrestlers.

Wrestling has long been woven into the cultural fabric of North Karnataka. From village fairs and jatra mahotsavas to rural sports festivals, wrestling bouts were once the prime attraction, drawing massive crowds.

But changing times, lack of encouragement and shrinking infrastructure have pushed the indigenous sport towards decline. Traditional Garadi Mane, wrestling training houses that once existed in almost every village and town, are rapidly disappearing.

The recent revision in the state government's pension policy for wrestlers has further aggravated the crisis.

In 2010, the government introduced a pension scheme, recognising their contribution and for mentoring younger wrestlers. Those above 55 registered as professional wrestlers were eligible for a monthly pension of Rs 6,000.

Until recently, wrestlers seeking pension benefits were required to submit photographs and pamphlets proving their participation in wrestling matches held in local fairs, jatras, and rural sports festivals.

The new policy introduced four months ago, however, stipulated that only wrestlers providing certificates proving participation in national and international competitions are eligible for pension.

This came as a severe jolt to thousands of traditional wrestlers whose careers were largely confined to rural tournaments and local competitions, where certificates were rarely issued. Also, pensions of retired wrestlers serving as coaches and even some active wrestlers have reportedly been discontinued. Most wrestlers come from economically weaker backgrounds.

Karnataka Wrestlers Association president Ratan Kumar Matpati said the government was doing grave injustice to poor wrestlers.

"All registered wrestlers should receive pension benefits, failing which the association is prepared to launch protests," he warned.

Youth Empowerment and Sports Department assistant director Sadanand Amarapur said the government took the decision after it found that a few people cheated, by claiming to be wrestlers.

The decline of wrestling has been alarming. After unification, the state reportedly had 35,000 Garadi Mane and over 3.5 lakh wrestlers. By 2020, the numbers had shrunk by 50%, while 4% of traditional wrestling houses shut down.

TANK OF TROUBLES

Customers wait in a long queue to refuel their vehicles at a bunk in Haveri on Monday.

Bhatkal river tragedy: Death toll rises to 11

BHATKAL (UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT), DHNS: The death toll in Bhatkal river tragedy has reached 11 after the body of missing Madev Jattappa Naik (52) was found at the mouth of Thattehakklu river on Monday morning.

On Sunday, the Fire and Emergency Services personnel, along with expert divers, had recovered 10 bodies from the river, including Madev's wife. A group of 14 people from Shirali village in the taluk were swept away by strong currents while attempting to collect clamps. Of which, 11 people, all relatives, died while three were rescued by the locals.

"All bodies have been recovered. A total of 11 bodies have been recovered and post-mortems have been conducted. Three people who required further treatment had been shifted to Udupi, and one among them has recovered and returned home," Superintendent of Police, Uttara Kannada, Deepan M N told reporters here.

The bodies of all 11 people have been cremated at their farms at Sharadahole Padushirali on Monday morning.

Meanwhile, District Minister Mankal Vaidya visited the families of the deceased and offered his condolences. He assured them of all possible help to the bereaved families. The district administration has set up a relief camp to provide immediate assistance to the families.

The minister said that he would take up the complete responsibility of the education of the children who lost their parents in the tragedy.

SC dismisses TN's review petition on Mekedatu project

Rejects plea for open court hearing in the matter

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has dismissed a review petition filed by Tamil Nadu against the November 2025 judgment that declined to consider its petition against Karnataka's proposed Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir-cum-Drinking Water Project.

A bench, comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi, also rejected the neighbouring state's application for an open court hearing in the matter.

Review petition is considered by the judges in their chamber through the circulation of papers without oral arguments from the counsel, as per the Supreme Court Rules.

In its petition, Tamil Nadu urged the apex court to reconsider its November 13, 2025, decision.

"We have carefully gone through the contents of the review petition and the papers appended therewith. We are satisfied that no case for review of the judgment is made out," the bench said in its April 15 order released recently.

The Mekadatu project is considered crucial for alleviating the severe water distress and meeting the drinking water needs of millions of residents in the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region.

In its previous order, a three-judge bench of then Chief Justice B R Gavai, Justices K Vinod Chandran and N V Anjaria, had called the application filed by Tamil Nadu against the nod by the Central Water Commission for the preparation of the detailed project report (DPR) in the matter premature.

Tamil Nadu had contended that the proposed project would be detrimental to the interests of the farmers of the state, dependent upon the Cauvery river water.

Karnataka, on the other hand, submitted that in terms of the Supreme Court's 2018 judgment, the state is duty-bound to deliver 177.25 tmcft of water to Tamil Nadu and if it is not affected, then they should be able to go ahead with the reservoir project, subject to requisite permissions.

Agreeing to the submission, the bench had then said, "What is being done by the order passed by the Central Water Commission (CWC) is only the preparation of the DPR, that too after taking into consideration the objections of the State of Tamil Nadu, the experts of the CWMA (Cauvery Water Management Authority) and CWRC (Cauvery Water Regulation Committee)."

The bench pointed out that the CWC had further directed that the prior approval of the CWMA and CWRC would be a prerequisite for the consideration of the DPR.

The bench also emphasised that this court, time and again, reiterated that this court should refrain from areas which are best reserved for experts.

The court also clarified that if the DPR is approved by the CWC, then the State of Tamil Nadu would be free to take such steps as permissible in law.

Karnataka claimed the project is of vital importance to regulate monthly stipulated releases to Tamil Nadu in a normal year at Biligundlu in accordance with the final order of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal as modified by the judgment of the Supreme Court on February 16, 2018.

It is important to utilise 4.75 tmcft (consumptive use) of water for meeting the drinking water needs of the Bangalore Metropolitan Region, as allocated by this court, the state claimed.

TN CM Vijay asks officials to continue legal action

Oppositon parties mount pressure on TVK-led govt

CHENNAI, DHNS

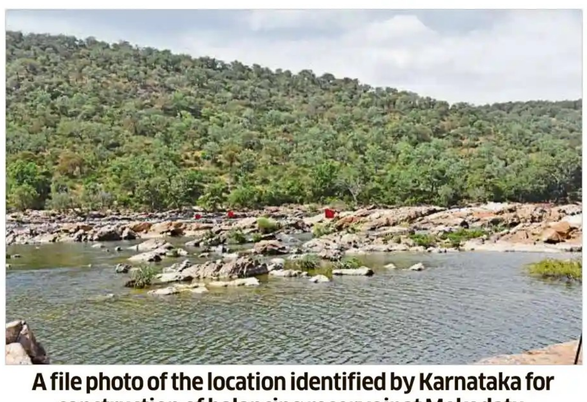
Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Monday directed officials to pursue legal action in the Mekedatu reservoir issue.

He chaired a review meeting after the Supreme Court rejected a review plea filed by Tamil Nadu government against the November 2025 judgment that declined to consider its petition against the project.

As opposition parties mounted pressure on the new TVK government to act, Vijay met with senior ministers and experts from various sectors to discuss the issue. An official release said the meeting was apprised about the efforts taken by the Tamil Nadu government in opposing Karnataka's plans.

Karnataka has proposed to construct a reservoir with a capacity of 67.16 tmcft in Mekedatu across the River Cauvery to provide drinking water for Bengaluru. However, Tamil Nadu says Karnataka cannot proceed with the project without the permission of the lower riparian state. The state also believes the project will obstruct the natural flow of water from Karnataka and the two states have been waging a legal battle over the issue.

While Tamil Nadu believes the project will be detrimental to the interests of farmers in the Cauvery Delta region, who are entirely dependent on Cauvery water, Karnataka feels otherwise, saying it will be beneficial to the neighbouring state.



A file photo of the location identified by Karnataka for construction of balancing reservoir at Mekedatu.

Telangana, Karnataka hold talks on Krishna river water usage

HYDERABAD, DHNS

Telangana and Karnataka held discussions on the utilisation of Krishna river waters for irrigation and drinking water purposes, with both states agreeing to coordinate in a manner that serves their mutual interests, on Monday.

Karnataka Minor Irrigation Minister N S Boseraju met Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Captain N Uttam Kumar Reddy at the Dr B R Ambedkar State Secretariat in Hyderabad.

Speaking after the meeting, Uttam Kumar Reddy said discussions were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, with both sides committed to reaching a mutual understanding on the use of Krishna waters.

He said future policies would be designed to benefit both states, and that a formal agreement would be drawn up to protect their respective interests.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said Telangana placed detailed proposals for a permanent resolution to drinking water shortages through inter-state coordination before Karnataka.

He added that the irrigation needs of Telangana's farming community were given full priority throughout the discussions on Krishna reservoir utilisation, and that both sides engaged in thorough deliberations to ensure that neither state's rights would be compromised.

The minister added that he would brief Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on the outcome of the talks and that a collective decision would be taken thereafter.

Minister Venkatesh gets addl charge of Planning & Statistics

BENGALURU, PTI: Animal Husbandry and Sericulture Minister K Venkatesh has been allocated the Planning and Statistics departments, in addition to his existing portfolios. The Planning and Statistics portfolios had remained with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah following the death of Minister D Sudhakar earlier this month. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot issued a notification to this effect on Sunday on the advice of the CM. Sudhakar had died on May 10 in Bengaluru, where he was undergoing treatment for a lung infection.

I am also an aspirant for RS seat: DVS

MYSURU, DHNS

Former chief minister and senior BJP leader D V Sadananda Gowda said on Monday that he is also an aspirant for a Rajya Sabha seat and has already communicated his wish to the party leadership.

Sadananda Gowda

It can be noted that four Rajya Sabha members from Karnataka are retiring and the Congress can win three of them, while the BJP-JD(S) alliance can win the fourth one.

There are talks that retiring Rajya Sabha member and former prime minister H D Deve Gowda should be given another term.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru, Gowda said, "I have already retired from electoral politics. However, I am ready to shoulder any other responsibility the party entrusts me. I have informed the party high command that I am an aspirant for the Rajya Sabha seat, and I will abide by their decision."

Sadananda Gowda was in Mysuru to launch Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Prashikshan Mahaabhiyan, an internal training programme of the BJP.

Leadership issue

When asked about the rumours regarding a change in the BJP state president's post, Gowda stated that such decisions rest entirely with the party's central leadership.

"Currently, state president B Y Vijayendra is actively organising and strengthening the party. Once his tenure ends, our leaders will decide, if a change is necessary. I have no personal opinion on this matter," he clarified.

PROUD MOMENT

President Droupadi Murmu confers the Padma Shri award on social worker S G Susheelamma (left) and Padma Bhushan on scholar Shatavadhani Dr R Ganesh (right) during a civil investiture ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Monday. PTI PHOTO

Govt 'betrayed' aspirations of young people: Nitin Nabin

BENGALURU, PTI: Accusing the Congress government in Karnataka of "betraying" the aspirations of young people, BJP national president Nitin Nabin on Monday said the grand old party completely lacks a vision for the future and potential of India's youth.

He also claimed that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is reaching new milestones in the fields of semiconductors, startups, digital innovation, and skill development.

"The Congress government in Karnataka has betrayed the aspirations of young people," Nabin was quoted as saying at the 'Interaction with Young Minds' programme, by BJP in a release.

According to him, the excessive corruption and poor governance under the Congress administration exposed the party's complete lack of vision regarding the future and potential of India's youth.

At the event, the BJP president discussed the role of youth and the importance of youth leadership in realising the vision of a developed India.

Claiming that India is reaching new milestones in the fields of semiconductors, startups, digital innovation, and skill development under the leadership of PM Modi, Nabin said, "Through this, unprecedented opportunities are being created for the country's youth."

Karnataka BJP president B Y Vijayendra, BJP Yuva Morcha national president and MP Tejasvi Surya, among others were present at the event.

4th hike: Fuel prices up by Rs 7.5 in 10 days

Fuel prices, from Page 1

Hyderabad is the costliest city for motorists with a litre of petrol costing Rs 115.73 and diesel Rs 103.82. It is followed by Thiruvananthapuram, where a litre of petrol costs Rs 115.49 and diesel Rs 104.41.

In cities like Patna, Kolkata, Jaipur and Mumbai, one litre petrol now costs more than Rs 110. Fuel prices differ across states because of variations in local taxes.

According to analysts, petrol and diesel prices are likely to go up further as the recent hikes have only marginally reduced the under-recoveries faced by oil marketing companies.

"Oil marketing companies are incurring a loss of about Rs 700-800 crore daily on the sale of auto fuels and domestic LPG, even after factoring the fuel price hike. This high level of under-recoveries is unsustainable," said Prashant Vasisht, senior vice president at ICRA.

The fuel price hikes have started pinching household budgets. Five in every 10 consumers say cost of transportation, products and services have increased due to hike in petrol and diesel prices, according to a survey conducted by LocalCircles. Around 70% consumers surveyed say they will reduce non-essential travel and outings to cope with rising petrol/diesel prices.

"Beyond higher transportation costs, the broader concern is the pass-through effect on the prices of everyday goods," said Vivek Yadav, Partner at BDO India.

Consumers may respond by becoming more value-conscious, prioritising essential purchases and delaying discretionary spending. Businesses that proactively adapt their cost structures today will be better positioned to protect margins and maintain consumer trust in the event of a sustained period of elevated fuel prices, he added.

Cab, auto rides and airport trips to become costlier

Cabs, from Page 1

"Normally, it is while booking a cab from the airport that the prices are high. That process is a nightmare. Now, the fare for airport drop-off has also been hiked. Usually, we pay around Rs 600 for an airport drop-off, but two days back, I had to pay almost Rs 300 more. This is when I chose the cheapest option across apps," said Arfa Sulaiman, a resident of Jayamahal.

On Monday evening, a basic cab ride from MG Road to the Kempegowda International Airport was priced between Rs 750 and Rs 894 across multiple platforms.

Over the past few months, designated pick-up kiosks assigned to app-based aggregator platforms at the airport have been facing cab shortages, with the issue being aggravated by the recent spell of rain in the city. Drivers are actively moving away from airport pick-ups due to stringent airport rules and low earnings.

SOULFUL SOJOURN

State spent Rs 74 crore in last 3 yrs on 53,000 pilgrims

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Over the last three years, the Karnataka government has spent nearly Rs 74 crore to help 53,253 Hindu devotees go on a pilgrimage to seven destinations in India.

The Hindu religious and charitable endowments department has been offering subsidy to eligible devotees to visit Kailash Mansarovar, Chardham, Kashi, Puri, Dwarka and for Bharat Yatra and Dakshin Yatra. The department pays between Rs 5,000 and Rs 30,000 for the pilgrimages.

Kashi yatra and Chardham (Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath) are the most sought after pilgrimages from Karnataka.

Destination DIVINE

Pilgrimage place	Subsidy
Kailash Mansarovar	Rs 30,000
Chardham	Rs 20,000
Kashi Yatra	Rs 5,000
Karnataka-Bharat Gaurav (Kashi-Gaya)	Rs 17,500
Dakshin Yatra	Rs 15,000
Dwaraka Yatra	Rs 17,500
Puri Jaganath Darshan	Rs 17,500

Majority of requests get rejected over poor documentation

On average, the department receives 4,000 to 10,000 applications annually, out of which 1,500 to 6,800 eligible devotees complete the trip. As many as 19,085 devotees completed the Kashi-Gaya tour and received a subsidy of Rs 33.38 crore.

The department pays highest subsidy of Rs 30,000 for the Kailash Mansarovar yatra. The scheme started in 2006-07.

No beneficiary availed the subsidy in 2023-24 and 2024-25. This year, the government has sponsored 555 devotees for Kailash Mansarovar yatra (one of the most difficult pilgrimages across the border).

Chardham yatra receives the second highest subsidy of Rs 20,000 per devotee. In the last three years, 9,221 devotees benefited from the scheme and the department paid a subsidy of Rs 18.43 crore for it.

In the last three years, the government also launched Karnataka-Bharath Gaurav Darshan and Dakshin Yatra, under which devotees need to travel through the package organized by IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation). The department pays 50% of the cost on these four packages.

Department sources told *DH* that more number of applications get rejected than approved.

"Poor documentation and inadequate submission of receipts result in rejection of applications," said Sharat B, endowment department commissioner.

He says these schemes are post-payment subsidies and many of the devotees fail to provide details in request way, resulting in applications being rejected.

Sharat said there were no restrictions on who could avail subsidy for the schemes.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka
Forecast May 26: Rainfall to occur at few places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	31.6	22	00
Bidar	41.2	26.4	6.4
Vijayapura	35	22.5	00
Dharwad	30.6	21.5	0.6
Haveri	28	21.4	00
Kalaburagi	38.7	26.3	TR
Raichur	35.4	25	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	29.1	23.9	01
Karwar	29.4	25	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	30.7	26.8	00

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	29.4	18.9	00
Bengaluru	32.5	20.8	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	31.9	21.7	00
Davangere	30.5	19	00
Hassan	NA	NA	NA
Mysuru	33.2	21	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	33.8	22.2	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	43.6	32.4	00
Kolkata	37.2	30.1	00
Mumbai	34.8	29.4	00
Chennai	41.1	30.3	00
Pune	34.9	24.2	00
Hyderabad	42.4	29.7	00
Th'puram	31.7	24.8	01

No Ebola case reported in India so far, says govt

NEW DELHI, PTI: No case of Ebola Virus has been reported in India so far, said Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Monday, directing officials to ensure all surveillance and testing arrangements remain in a state of readiness.

"India has not reported any case of Bundibugyo Ebola disease to date," Nadda said.

According to an official statement, during a high-level meeting with senior officials of the Union Health Ministry, Nadda assessed the country's readiness amid global concern over Ebola and directed that all preventive mechanisms remain fully alert and operational.

Nadda said, "Enhanced screening and surveillance measures have been initiated at international airports and other points of entry, and advisories along with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on screening, quarantine, clinical management, laboratory testing and infection prevention practices have been shared with all States and Union Territories."

DGCA issues SOP

Aviation watchdog DGCA has asked airlines to implement various measures, including making in-flight announcements and mandatory filing of self-declaration forms from passengers originating or transiting through the affected countries.

Meetings have also been held with States/Union Territories and stakeholders concerned to review preparedness and response measures.

On the minister's directions, the Union Health Secretary chaired a review meeting with officials from various ministries and agencies to strengthen coordination and preparedness measures, the statement said.

IIT-M diagnosing CBSE evaluation site glitches

Move comes amid students' worries over OSM system

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras has said it was carrying out a diagnosis of CBSE's evaluation website amid mounting concerns over mismatched answer sheets and wrong evaluation methods.

IIT Madras Director V Kamakoti said on Monday a team has started work on the site. "We are running diagnostics of the website and we will see what went wrong to fix the glitches," he added.

Kamakoti's statement comes a day after Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said he had asked a team from IIT Madras and IIT Kanpur to help deal with the issues.

Earlier on the day, he said at least two faculty members and support staff would assist CBSE in resolving the ongoing technical issues.

Several Class 12 students have complained about mismatched answer sheets as well as wrong evaluation methods under CBSE's on-screen marking (OSM) system.

One student, Vedant Srivastava, who complained that the physics answer sheet marked in his name was not his, faced trolling from some supporters of the government, with some questioning his intent.

The CBSE later clarified that his answer sheet was misplaced, and handed out the correct sheet to him.

Another student, Ria, complained that two pages of her answer sheet were not even scanned.

There were also complaints of mismatched handwriting and written responses.

This was the first time that the government had rolled out the OSM system in a big way after a similar attempt in 2014 led to failed results.

CBSE defended the move and said only 13,000 answer sheets could not be scanned, and that rollout planning started in February this year.

The marking of the answer sheets through the OSM methods had run into various issues, with several students appearing for IIT-JEE said that they did not secure the 75% needed for admissions.

Keeping in mind these issues, Kerala CM VD Satheeshan wrote to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, attaching the complaint of a student, and asked that the matter be dealt with urgency to "ensure transparency, fairness and timely redressal of grievances".

On Sunday, to offset the issues that the site was facing, Pradhan asked a team from IIT Madras and Kanpur to help deal with the issues. He also spoke to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and roped in the help of four public sector banks to smoothen payments.

Rahul backs CBSE student over evaluation row

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Amid claims of incorrect evaluation of CBSE answer sheets surfacing on social media, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday backed a 17-year-old student who faced "anti-national" jibes online, saying the Modi government fears the youth and Gen Z because they are asking questions.

Rahul said on X that the Modi-Shah duo had turned yet another institution into a "symbol of rigging", while a student allegedly affected by a wrong evaluation sought justice on social media only to face abuse online.

"But instead of help, he got abuse — BJP's IT cell branded him an 'anti-national', called him a 'Soros agent' and part of the 'Deep State'. A 17-year-old boy raises his voice for his future, and BJP turns him into a traitor," Rahul said on X.

He added that, for the first time in decades, "serious questions" had been raised about the Central Board of Secondary Education board examinations. "The truth is — the Modi government fears the youth and Gen Z because they are now asking questions. Anyone who asks questions is defamed, intimidated and crushed," he said.

Several CBSE students have complained on X that they received incorrect answer sheets in their names.

CUET exams postponed

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The National Testing Agency (NTA) has postponed the CUET-UG 2026 examinations scheduled for May 28 after the Centre revised the date of the Id-ul-Zuha (Bakrid) holiday.

In an official notice issued on Sunday evening, the agency said both shifts of the examination slated for May 28 would now be held on fresh dates, which will be announced separately.

The postponement follows a government notification changing the notified holiday date for Bakrid, prompting the NTA to reschedule the exams to avoid a clash with the festival.

AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of vehicles.

1) CB_ASHOK_LEYLAND_1915 _CABIN_FBV YOM – - Reg No – KA19AE2549
2) CB_ TATA INTRA V30 _COMMERCIAL VEHICLE YOM – 2023 Reg No – KA33B5927
3) TATA MOTORS LTD. – CB _TATA Ace YOM – 2025 Reg No – KA09AB7520
4) CB_BACKHOE_LOADER _SD76_BHL_BULL YOM – - Reg No – KA51MW7105
5) AL_DOST_GOODS YOM – 2023 Reg No – KA07B7511
6) CB_Ashok Leyland Dost GOODS YOM – 2023 Reg No – KA07B5469
7) CB_AMBULANCE YOM – 2020 Reg No – KA35C6474
8) CB_AL_BADA_DOST YOM – 2023 Reg No – KA19AE3445
9) CB_ASHOK_LEYLAND_HE _1915_5200_FBV YOM – - Reg No – KA18D0198
10) CB_MAHINDRA_BOLERO _MAXXCITY_PICKUP YOM – 2023 Reg No – KA03AL0526
11) CB_Ashok Leyland Dost GOODS YOM – 2024 Reg No – KA33B6089

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS (ONLINE/OFFLINE) WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THIS PAPER PUBLICATION i.e. from 26.05.2026 (Please note that closing Auction date would not be a Weekly off / Holiday)

BRANCH ADDRESS:
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.,
22, MG ROAD, BANGALORE
KARNATAKA – 560001
OR
Contact: Arunlaxman Kokare
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.
Contact / 080 - 61564249

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590 018, Karnataka State.

No.: V.T.U./BGM/RE/2026-27/IFT No. 26/856 Date : 23-05-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (K.P.P. Portal Only) 2nd Call

The e-Tenders are invited induplicate from eligible Tenderers, **Registered Contractor, by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 18,** under Standard Tender Document Procedure K/W Format for the **Work of Replacement of Roof Sheet to Auditorium Roof and Other Maintenance Works at VTU, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi. Amounting to 97,45,747/- (Excluding GST) 2nd Call.** Other details log on to **Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 25-05-2026.**

DIPR/Belagavi/300/Manipal/2026-27 Sd/- Registrar. V.T.U., Belagavi,

HOSKOTE PLANNING AUTHORITY
Mission Hospital Road, 1st Cross, Sri. Venkatadri Layout, Hoskote - 562114, Bangalore rural District.
Phone / Fax: 080-27934470 / 27935412.
E-mail: hosakote.pa@gmail.com URL: www.hoskote.tpa.gov.in

No: HPA/e-auction/FD/01/2026-27 Date: 22-05-2026

NOTICE

"e-Auction notification for Investment of Surplus Funds of Hoskote Planning Authority has been published in e-Procurement Portal of GOK. For details visit **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**"

e-Auction Notice No: **TPA/2026-27/AUCTION81**

Sd/-
Joint Director of Town & Country Planning & Member Secretary,
Hoskote Planning Authority, Hoskote.

DIPR/CP/807/Adverto/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL Airport Road, Bengaluru - 560 017. (Phone: 080 25084184, 4156)
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

Sl. No	Description	Details
1	Name of work	Revamping of Civil Infrastructure at DOS/ISRO Housing Colony at Domlur, Indira Nagar New Land and Old Land, CISF Quarters and Barracks Thippasandra, Bengaluru (Phase - III)
2	E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/C/C/04/2026-27, Dt.22/05/2026
3	Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 437.23 Lakhs
4	Period of completion	Twelve Months
5	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 8,74,460/- valid for 180 days**

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**.

Sd/-
Group Director, C&MG, URSC

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division, B.N.C.C Road, Bengaluru–560092

No.: EE(BTPD)/PR/03/2026-27 Date: 25.05.2026

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

This is to inform the public that if any dilapidated buildings / walls or other dangerous buildings are found in Government school buildings, Government compound walls, private school buildings, private school compound walls, private compound walls, Central Government buildings, Central Government compound walls existing in the limits of Byatarayanapura Division, Ward No. 15-Batarayanapura, 16-Amruthahalli, 17-Jakkur, 18-Kempapura, 19-Thanisandra, 20-Sampigehalli, 21-Kogilu the general public may immediately inform to the Byatarayanapura Division of Bengaluru North City Corporation through telephone or through WhatsApp.

If the private school compound and private school building, private building and compound walls of private building are in a dilapidated condition / dangerous, they should bring it to the notice of the City Corporation and clear it themselves. You are hereby notified that you will be held directly responsible for any unpleasant incidents that may arise due to failure to comply.

Contact Information: (1) Executive Engineer-Sachin H.P., Mobile No.: 98445 08268, (2) Assistant Executive Engineer-Varun Kumar, Mobile No.: 99860 68233, (3) Assistant Executive Engineer-Shivakumar Gowdar, Mobile No.: 94806 85444, (4) Assistant Executive Engineer-Ranganath B.R., Mobile No.: 90088 89809

Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division, Bengaluru North City Corporation

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್‌ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ಸಂ:ಕಾಪಾಇಂ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿ/ದಾ/ಸ.ಇಂ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2026–27/298
ದಿನಾಂಕ:–25/05/2026

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

("ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್" ಮೂಲಕ)

ಈ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇಲಾಖಾ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಯ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಐಟಂವಾರು **ಏಕ & ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ ನಮೂನೆ–1 & 3**ರಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟು **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08 ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.5.05 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ 84.23** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳವರೆಗೆ ಇರುತ್ತವೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಮತ್ತು ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **25/05/2026** ರಿಂದ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **02/06/2026** ಸಂಜೆ **4.00** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08192–250156 ಅಥವಾ www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/99/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

Hassan Urban Development Authority, BM Road, Hassan
Website:Hassan.uda.gov.in ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08172-266719. Email: hudahassas125@gmail.com

No.HUDA/AEE/Tender/01/2026-27 Date:19.05.2026

e-Tender Notification

Hassan Urban Development Authority, Hassan has invited the Item wise tender from registered Class-1 Civil Contractors through kpp portal (Visit:https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) as per KTTP act- 2000. The last date for receipt of tender is 17-30 Hrs of 05.06.20265 (http//www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) any information pertains to this tender may please be obtained from the Assistant Executive Engineer, HUDA, Hassan during office hours. The details of works as noted below. SL No.1)Name of Work: PROVIDING BEAUTIFICATION FOR BIDAREKATTE TANK NEAR PAYPURA IN BELUR TALUK HASSAN DISTRICT Amount put to tender (Rs in lakhs)167.76 Tender - Calendar of Events:- Last Date for receipt of tender: 20.05.2026 to 05.06.2026 up to 17:30 PM Opening of Technical bids: 08.06.2026 at 11.00 AM Opening of Financial bids 15.06.2026 at 11.00 AM

Sd/-(Patel Shivanna) Chairman, Urban Development Authority, Hassan

Sd/-(K.M Ramesh) Commissioner, Urban Development Authority, Hassan

वासासंइ/हिसनि/हासन/164/केएस್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, BANGALORE - 560 064
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No. RWF/M/OT/WFPS/2026-27/18 Dated 23.05.2026

E-Tender: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website **http://www. ireps.gov.in** (Works).

Tender No.: RWF/M/OT/WFPS/2026-27/18 **Dtd:** 23.05.2026. **Name of the Work:** Proposal for unpacking, stacking of wheels, segregation and disposal for released packing materials of Trade Wheels received for M/s. KLW. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 13,38,214.40. **EMD:** Rs. 26,800.00. **Completion Period:** 18 Months. **Date of Closing of Tenders:** 15.06.2026 at 10:30 Hrs.

The above Tender details can be viewed on our website **www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in**

DY. CME/W-I

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division, Thimmaiaha Road, Queens Road, Bengaluru-560051

No.: EE/SJN/E-proc/10/2026-27 Date: 25.05.2026

SHORT TERM QUOTATION

Sealed quotations are invited from registered and eligible contractors / firms for rate approval **supply of electrical items, network & telecommunication items, etc to Russel Market.** The sealed covered scribing the quotation number and name of work should reach this office on or before **30.05.2026** at **4:00 p.m.** and the same day if possible or the next working day.

Conditions: (1) The agency shall quote the rate as per specification, **(2)** The rate quoted shall be inclusive of all material, labour, fabrication, transportation etc. (Excluding GST). **(3)** The quotations are invited for the purpose of budgetary offer for adopting rates in estimate. **(4)** The agencies don not have any claim for entrustment of work. **(5)** Any other information shall be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours. **(6)** BCCC reserves right to accept or reject the quotation part or all without assigning any reason.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shivajinagar Division, Bengaluru Central City Corporation

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI
(Office of the Executive Engineer, H & FWD Engineering Division,
PWD Quarters No: 110-D, Opp: HKES Womens Polytechnic Iwan-E-Shahi Colony
Kalaburagi-585102 Phone/Fax No-08472 – 241982. E –mail-ee.khsdrp.klb@gmail.com

No: HFW/EE/DIVN/KLB/AE-2/PMC & DPR/2026-27/287 Date:-22.05.2026

:: TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

The Executive Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Division, Kalaburagi invites tender in Two Cover document system for DPR, Architectural, Structural, Electrical, Sanitation and other Services drawings, for 06 No's of works and appointment of project management consultants for 04 No's, of works through (kppp portal). The minimum Estimated amount of **Rs. 4.50 lakhs and the maximum amount is Rs. 80.00 lakhs.** For more details, please visit the KPP portal. (Refer kpp-portal for the details).

Calendar of Events:
1) Last date for receipt of tenders : **10-06-2026 upto 16:00 hrs.** 2) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) : **11-06-2026 at 16:30 hrs.**

NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the under signed for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, Rejection of bids /individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule/contents will not be published through news papers and further changes will be updated only on e-procurement portal.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/160/KSMC&A/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer
H & FWD Engineering Division, Kalaburagi

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಸಿಂಧನೂರು.
E-Mail : apmcsindhanur@gmail.com ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ: ರಾಯಚೂರು 08535–220071, 220256

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕೃಉಮಾಸ/ಸಿಂ/ಭದ್ರತಾ–ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ/ 58 /2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:20–05–2026.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಸಿಂಧನೂರು ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿಯಿಂದ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಆಸ್ತಿ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಭದ್ರತಾ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯವರಿಂದ ಭದ್ರತಾ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣಗಳ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ಸೇವೆಗಾಗಿ ಅಗತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ತಕ್ಕಂತೆ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

1) ಭದ್ರತಾ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ:– ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 2.00ಲಕ್ಷ Indent Number: APMC / 2026-27 / SE0843. 2) ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ:– ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 1.00ಲಕ್ಷ Indent Number: APMC / 2026-27 / SE0844.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ:08–06–2026 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30ರ ವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ:11–06–2026ರ ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ:16–06–2026ರ ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಆಡಳಿತ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ, ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ http://kppp.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸೂಚನೆ:– ಕಾರಣಾಂತರಗಳಿಂದ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ಜಾಹಿರಾತು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಸಹಿ/– ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ.ಸಿಂಧನೂರು. DIP/RCR/88KSMCA/90/2026-27 ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ.ಸಿಂಧನೂರು.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works against the following Bid Enquiry numbers

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/JE-1/F-393(6)/26-27/919-22 Dated : 22.05.2026

1) KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/Cir-South/EE(O)/AEE-2/JE-1/25-26/EPR-21 CALL-5 Dated: 12.12.2025 for Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of 66kV class HV Bushing for Power Transformers at various sub-stations pertaining to Tr (Op) Circle-South, KPTCL, Bengaluru conforming to Technical Specifications. F.O.R.D at Store/Site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading.

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/JE-1/F-321(6)/26-27/923-25 Dated : 22.05.2026

2) KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/Cir-South/EE(O)/AEE-2/JE-1/25-26/EPR-21 CALL-5 Dated: 12.12.2025 for Replacement of age old 66kV Pneumatic Circuit Breaker and C&R Panel of 66KV Capacitor Bank at 220KV R/S Hoody pertaining to Tr (Op) Circle-South, KPTCL, Bengaluru on Total Turnkey basis including supply of all matching materials/equipments including supply of 66kV breakers and erection (including civil works) of all materials/equipments, testing and commissioning on percentage basis.

The Bids will be received through E-procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **26.05.2026.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.),
Transmission (Operations) Circle-South, KPTCL,
Ground Floor, Office Complex, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru –09.

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
The Executive Engineer, KBJNL SBC O&M Division
Bheemarayanagudi-585287, Tq :Shahapur, Dist: Yadagiri
email:kbjnleesbc@gmail.com

Ref:No.KBJNL/EE/SBC/TND/2026-27/108 Date:-21.05.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-TENDERING MODE ONLY)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer KBJNL, SBC O&M, Division Bheemarayanagudi invites Two cover system for eligible A valid KPWD CLASS I CONTRACTOR for the works of

Sl No	Name of work
1	Balance CC Lining Work And Extension Work Of Dy-5A Of SBC From Ch:2.00 To 3.950 Km And Balance CC Lining Work From Ch:0.00 Km To 4.650 Km Of Lat-1 Of Dy-8A Of SBC.(Indent no. KBJNL/2025-26/ IW/WORK_INDENT2784)
2	Modernization of Lateral No.9/2 from km 0.00 to 6.00 km of Dy-2 of SBC Including Structures.(Indent no. KBJNL/2025-26/IW/WORK_INDENT 2785)

1) Work Estimate Number: (1) KBJNL/2025-26/ IW/WORK_INDENT2784 **(2)** KBJNL/2025-26/IW/WORK_INDENT2785 **2) Access date for applying for tender:** 22.05.2026 to 01.06.2026 up to 5.00 PM **3) Last date & time for tender queries:** 25.05.2026 up to 5.30PM **4) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting:** 26.05.2026 up to 11.00AM **5) Last date for applying for tender:** 01.06.2026 up to 5.00 PM 6) Opening of Technical Bid: 02.06.2026 up to 5.30 PM **7) Opening of Financial Bid:** 06.06.2026@ 11.00 AM(Tentative)

The tender will be opened in this office as mentioned in the above dates. Further information can be had from the office of undersigned during the office hours & also from e-procurementhttps://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, SBC O&M Division
Bheemarayanagudi.

DIP/YDG/66/KSMC&A/2026-27

KARNATAKA SILK INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
3rd & 4th Floors, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560 001
Ph: 080- 25586550/25586402, Email: info@ksicsilk.com

No. KSIC/PR/ITEMS&W/2026-27 Date:25.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

Tenders are invited through KPP Portal from Manufacturers/Dealers/Contractors for the below detailed items & work:

Sl. No.	Particulars	EMD (In Rs.)	Last Date for uploading the Tender	Technical Bids Opening Date
1	**Re-Tender** for Procurement of 222 Tins (15 Kgs. each) of KCOGF or Equivalent Brand Coconut oil for a duration of six months for KSIC, SWF Mysuru and SWU Channapatna	28,500	03.06.2026 @03.00 PM	04.06.2026 @03.30 PM
2	**Tender** for Job Work for Stitching of 1,000 Nos of Silk Shirts with Stitched Pocket on the Left Side, KSIC Logo and Size on the Collar of Shirt (Including KSIC Design Box with Label mentioning the Size, Colour and Price)	6,000	24.06.2026 @03.00 PM	25.06.2026 @03.30 PM
3	**Tender** for Job Work of Body and Pallu Contrast Dyeing on 1,000 Nos of White Zari Sarees	20,000	09.06.2026 @03.00 PM	10.06.2026 @03.30 PM

Tender Documents, details of the Notification, schedule terms & conditions can be downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from the office of the Undersigned during working hours or KPP Portal - helpdesk-080-46010000 and 080-68948777.

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Court backlogs call for deeper repair

The increase in the sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court of India from 34 to 38 – effected through an ordinance last week – is welcome, given the Court's staggering backlog of more than 92,000 cases. In 2019, the number of judges was raised from 31 to 34. Notably, the backlog has increased by 50% since then. This is evidence that the shortage of judges is only a part of the problem. The larger crisis of pendency can be effectively addressed only by making systemic corrections in the Court's practices. Currently, the average time for case disposal by the apex court is 1-3 years, but many cases have also dragged on for more than 13 years.

In practice, the Supreme Court does not always function with its full sanctioned strength of judges. This could be traced to multiple reasons, including the government's dilly-dallying on the appointment of judges due to the differences with the collegium. There is a view that the Court should be more selective about the cases it decides to hear; many cases have been seen as undeserving of the top court's attention. It can also deploy technology for better results – for instance, greater use of digital e-filing systems can save time. Restricting the hearings and arguments and minimising the adjournments can be integral to the shift. Furthermore, the government can contribute to easing the case burden by not taking frivolous disputes to the Court. The government is the biggest litigant in the country, and many of the cases it pursues do not merit the Court's intervention.

Reform must be anchored in better case management and strengthening of the lower courts

The delay in justice delivery is much more real in India's lower courts. The pendency in the Supreme Court is only about 0.14% of all the cases pending disposal in the country. More than 5.6 million cases are pending in high courts, and over 43 million are pending in district and other subordinate courts. Many of these may not be settled in the lifetime of the people involved in the cases. It is estimated that at the present pace of disposal, it will take more than 300 years to clear this backlog. Cases in the lower courts impact the common people the most; they should be cleared with greater urgency. India's prisons house lakhs of undertrials who don't have the means or access to bail. Increasing the number of judges in the lower courts should be part of the corrective efforts. Reform cannot wait when the system fails to deliver the fundamental principle of speedy justice to the maximum number of people.

Drunk drivers: Hold schools accountable

The sharp rise in drunken driving cases involving school bus drivers in Bengaluru is not merely a traffic violation problem. It exposes thousands of children to unacceptable danger every day. According to Bengaluru Traffic Police, drunken driving cases involving school transport vehicles jumped from 12 in 2023 to 124 in 2024. Though numbers dipped marginally to 111 in 2025, 83 cases have already been registered this year. These are not random late-night offenders, but drivers entrusted with transporting children to school every morning. During surprise inspections around 7 am, police check between 3,500 and 4,000 school vehicles daily and detect more than 30 drivers under the influence: nearly 1% of those tested. In school transport, even one such case is one too many.

What makes the situation particularly concerning is that schools cannot evade accountability by claiming transportation has been outsourced to private contractors. Parents pay substantial transport fees, trusting that the institution has vetted drivers, inspected vehicles, and established safety protocols. Outsourcing a service does not outsource responsibility. When a school logo is painted on a bus, the institution bears moral and legal responsibility for every child inside it. Supreme Court guidelines on school transport stipulate that drivers must hold a valid heavy vehicle licence with at least five years' experience, and anyone booked even once for drunken driving is disqualified from service. The argument that alcohol traces may stem from the previous night's drinking offers little comfort. A driver with alcohol still in the bloodstream is impaired to some degree.

Cases involving school transport drivers expose criminal negligence. Stronger deterrents are overdue

The burden of prevention cannot rest entirely on the police, who are already stretched thin managing peak-hour traffic. That responsibility must primarily lie with schools. Every institution should be mandated to conduct breathalyser tests before drivers begin their morning routes – a process neither technologically complex nor prohibitively expensive. That violations continue to rise suggests school managements have done little to address the problem. Stronger punitive action is overdue. Heavy penalties must fall on vehicle suppliers and schools; allowing children to be driven by intoxicated drivers is nothing short of criminal negligence and must be treated as such. Authorities should also name and shame errant institutions, because transparency is often a more powerful deterrent than fines. Parents send their children to school trusting they will return home safely. That trust cannot be surrendered to complacency or regulatory tokenism. The rise in drunken driving among school bus drivers is a warning signal that demands urgent action before a preventable lapse becomes an irreversible catastrophe.

LOST IN GAINS

The risks in RBI's rupee defence

Dollar-sale profits are windfalls from a weakening rupee. They are no substitute for real economic resilience

AJIT RANADE

A falling rupee is usually treated as a macroeconomic problem. It raises the cost of imports, worsens inflationary pressures, unsettles investors, and dents national pride. But India's recent experience has produced a curious paradox. The same rupee weakness that creates external stress has also produced a fiscal bonanza for the Union government. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s defence of the rupee – by selling dollars from its reserves – has yielded large realised profits, which are then transferred to the Centre as surplus. The RBI is thus not merely managing the currency. It is increasingly becoming a fiscal stabiliser, almost a treasurer to the government. This deserves more scrutiny.

The RBI Central Board has now approved a record surplus transfer of Rs 2,86,588 crore to the Union government for FY2025-26. This is higher than the previous record of Rs 2,68,590 crore in FY2024-25, Rs 2,10,874 crore in FY2023-24, and Rs 87,416 crore in FY2022-23. The latest transfer is reportedly backed by robust RBI earnings, including gains from large dollar sales to support the rupee and higher income on foreign assets.

Nearly Rs 2.9 trillion is not a rounding-off item. It is close to 8% of the Centre's revenue receipts. It gives the government fiscal breathing space without raising taxes, cutting expenditure or borrowing more from the market. At a time of elevated crude prices, geopolitical uncertainty, and pressure on the fiscal deficit, this is a very useful cushion. But that is exactly why it is worrying. A cushion can quietly become a habit.

The arithmetic is simple. The RBI accumulated dollars over many years when the rupee was much stronger. When it sells those dollars today at a weaker exchange rate, it books a rupee gain. Under the economic capital framework, unrealised revaluation gains on gold or foreign exchange are not meant to be distributed. But realised income from forex operations can flow into the RBI's income and then into its surplus transfer to the government. This means rupee weakness has produced a fiscal windfall. That is an uncomfortable sentence, but it captures the paradox.

This matters for another reason. If India's nominal GDP grows by 10% in rupee terms, but the rupee depreciates by more than 10% against the dollar, India's GDP in dollar terms barely grows. This is not merely statistical trivia. Global rankings, investor perceptions, and geopolitical heft are measured in dollars. Persistent rupee weakness can therefore become a strategic concern.

But that does not mean the rupee must be defended at any cost. India is a current account-deficit economy. It imports much more oil, gold, electronics, and critical inputs than it exports. It also has a higher inflation rate than the US over the medium term. Some

depreciation of the rupee is natural, even desirable. A weaker currency acts as a shock absorber. It protects export competitiveness and discourages non-essential imports.

The danger is not depreciation; it is disorderly depreciation. That is where the RBI rightly intervenes: to reduce volatility, prevent panic, and anchor expectations. But defending a level is different from managing volatility. If the market believes that the RBI will always protect a particular exchange rate, then large importers and dollar borrowers may under-hedge their exposures. An artificially strong rupee subsidises imports, penalises exports, and delays adjustment. The eventual correction then becomes more painful.

There is also a fiscal morality issue. If defending the rupee produces large RBI profits, and those profits help the Centre reduce its deficit, then depreciation begins to have a hidden fiscal upside. That is not a healthy incentive structure.

Through the statutory liquidity ratio, banks are required to invest a substantial share of their deposits in government securities. This creates a captive market for sovereign debt. It is legal, long-standing, and part of India's financial architecture. But it is still a form of financial repression: household savings are partly channelled into government borrowing by regulation. If, in addition, the government becomes dependent on large RBI surplus transfers, the line between monetary authority and fiscal support begins to blur.

A few uneasy exits

The rupee story is also linked to India's external financing challenge. Gross FDI inflows may look healthy, but net FDI has weakened sharply because of repatriation, disinvestment, and outward flows. Foreign companies and private equity investors are exiting at attractive valuations. Indian equity markets remain expensive partly because domestic SIP inflows have become sticky and powerful. The SIP habit is good for financialisation and household participation in markets. But it has also created a strong domestic bid that prevents a sharp market correction despite large FII outflows.

This raises a sensitive question. Are Indian domestic investors, through SIPs and IPO subscriptions, indirectly facilitating profitable exits for foreign investors? In many recent marquee IPOs, a large share of the money raised has gone not into fresh capital for the company but into offers for sale by existing investors.

There have also been many high-profile foreign exits or partial exits: Holcim, Ford, Harley Davidson, Citibank's retail business, Metro AG, GM, Cairn, Lafarge, parts of Vodafone's story, Disney's restructuring, Whirlpool's dilution, and others. Each case has its own explanation. But taken together, they point to a larger discomfort. India is attractive as a market, but not always easy as a place to build, operate, and retain capital.

This does not mean foreign confidence has vanished. Google's data centre plans, Meta's and Google's investment in Jio, and other strategic investments show that global capital still wants exposure to India. But there is a difference between entering India for the digital scale and committing patient capital to deep manufacturing. India needs durable FDI, not merely valuation-driven entry and exit.

In this context, the rupee is not just a number on a screen. It reflects oil dependence, gold imports, external financing gaps, portfolio flows, domestic market valuations, and confidence in doing business. The RBI can smooth the ride, but it cannot permanently change the road.

(The writer is an economist; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

In the lap of nature

The marvellous sight took me back to my childhood days

DOLAN BARDHAN

William Cowper, in his famous poem *The Task*, appropriately contrasted the scenic beauties of nature in rural life with the artificial urban life in his famous line, 'God made the country and man made the town.'

I didn't perceive the line practically until I visited my father's ancestral home in a small hamlet in West Bengal last December.

I spent a couple of days in the picturesque village to meet my nonagenarian grandma. The blurred memories of the village, in which I was setting foot after 20 long years, drew a hazy landscape on my mind's canvas. However, my car skimmed, and I reached the village in the evening.

I decided to spend a day in the lap of nature. The next morning, I hiked through the village path and the narrow dividers between the paddy fields. As it was the harvest time of the aman crop in Bengal, the fields were covered with paddy stalks with their heads bending in weight. The ripe paddy stalks, doubly shining with golden colour in the sunlit morning, were swinging in the gentle breeze. I feasted my eyes with the sight of the blue firmament dotted with fleecy white clouds. The marvellous sight transported me to my childhood days when our drawing teacher taught us how to colour a village landscape.

I discovered myself as a little girl. I ran over a pasture of green carpet where herds of cows were grazing meditatively. The cowherd was playing a sad tune in his bamboo flute on a grassy mound. I ran after the colourful butterflies. I tried to find a bird tracking its sweet note inside a green bush in vain. Fatigued, I sank into some pleasant lair of wavy grass and relished a few sweet guavas and chikus that I had plucked from an orchard near the paddy fields. I reread O Henry's *The Gift of the Magi*, reclining under the cool shade of a mango tree.

I did not realise how soon the day had glided by; I noticed the red ball sinking behind the lush green of the distant forest, and the chirping notes of birds returning to their nests filled the air. Captivated by the heavenly sight, I stopped there for a moment and thanked God. Then I set out for my grandma's house that stood near a stream.

Unwittingly, I had hiked a long distance, and it took about an hour to reach my destination. The moon was then peeping out of the frills of the sailing clouds. The moonlit evening gave the village a silvery look. The ripples on the stream seemed like a million stars had descended to adorn the village with colourful pearls. My heart mourned, reciting the lines from Keats' sonnet: '...the day so soon has glided by: E'en like the passage of an angel's tear / That falls through the clear ether silently.'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Children's safety cannot be compromised

Apropos 'Drunk driving by school drivers surges' (May 25), the rise in drunk driving among school bus drivers is alarming and demands immediate accountability. When those entrusted with children's safety turn reckless, it reflects a deep failure of oversight. Surprise checks alone cannot fix this; schools must ensure strict background verification, regular medical tests, and zero-tolerance enforcement. Prevention must begin with responsibility by school proprietors and transport contractors. Bengaluru's traffic police deserve support through public vigilance. Protecting children on their daily commute should be treated as a civic duty, not a periodic crackdown.

K Chidanand Kumar,
Bengaluru

Viruses demand vigilance

I refer to 'Bracing for the viral threats' (May 23). The World Health Organisation reports that 70% of new pathogens discovered in the past 50 years originated in animals, with more than 250 human diseases emerging after viruses crossed species barriers. The recent hantavirus outbreak aboard a cruise ship underscores how swiftly infections can spread. Ebola's incubation period can exceed the time it takes a traveller to cross continents, making containment even harder. Pandemics such as Covid, SARS and Ebola have exposed how vulnerable societies remain. The drivers of outbreaks — climate change, collapsing ecosystems, rapid travel and population growth — are firmly in place. Cures are slow to develop, research takes time, and testing requires robust infrastructure. Rapid diagnostics, strong public health systems and transparent data-sharing are critical to containment. Viruses cross borders effortlessly; our defences must therefore be equally borderless, built on science and cooperation. We should be under no illusion that Ebola is fully under control, given its grave health and economic implications. Vigilance, transparency and preparedness are the only safeguards against preventable tragedies.

H N Ramakrishna, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

This will be the most important deal that any of these great, but always in conflict countries, will ever sign. Nothing in the past, or in the future, will surpass it.

Donald Trump, US President (linking Abraham Accords to the Iran peace deal)

It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it.
Eleanor Roosevelt

TO BE PRECISE

Bengal to set up 'holding centres' for illegal immigrants

IN PERSPECTIVE

What prisons won't tell in a day

Telangana's prison tourism experiment cannot capture the realities of India's broken and overcrowded jails

MAJA DARUWALA

Telangana's prison department has relaunched its 'Feel the Jail' experiment at the Chanchalguda prison. For Rs 1,000 (12 hours) or Rs 2,000 (24 hours), visitors experience prison life: surrendering personal belongings, being locked in a cell, eating prison rations, sleeping on a hard surface with standard-issue bedding, and following prison discipline. The aim is awareness and deterrence, especially for young folk.

As short stays often are, the paying visitor will at best get a sanitised experience, safe in a cell by himself. Not so the government's free guest. He will have to forgo the luxury of a cell and be thrown into crowded barracks. Nationwide, prisons are unhygienic and dangerously tight on accommodation. Overcrowding averages around 120% over the sanctioned space available. Twelve jails, including Delhi's Tihar, belong to the 400% overcrowded club, with Uttar Pradesh's Muradabad nearly at 500% capacity.

Sensibly, Telangana does not have overcrowding. But elsewhere, staff shortage and chronic overcrowding mean that the inmate gets locked into overcrowded barracks for up to 14 hours, sleeps on rough stone near a stinking toilet, spooned up against another unknown, until the pre-dawn wake-up call takes him into another long, aimless, and fretful day.

The best and most educational part of tourism is meeting the people. But our stay-and-pay visitor may not get this opportunity. Here, he would find forgotten people: those with mental health issues waiting in limbo to be declared fit to stand trial—a trial that will never come; a seventeen-year-old sister-in-law picked up with her whole family in a suspected dowry death matter; or one half of a dodgy love-jihad accusation, or a relationship gone wrong. Here, the visitor may find a woman from another state who doesn't understand the local language but is awaiting indictment for smuggling drugs. She knows nothing of any of it: just that someone gave her money to take 'something' to a friend.

The pay-and-stay guest will go home the next morning. The government guest must stay until someone can help get him or her out. It is little appreciated that more than two-thirds of inmates are undertrials, not convicts, waiting while the investigation or trial grinds on. Over 11,000 have been trapped for more than five years in the never-land of pre-trial custody. They cannot afford a lawyer or post bail. The government has schemes to help, but processes for free legal aid are by no means instantaneous and private representation is often a ruinous indulgence without any guarantee of quality.

Organisers will have medical help on hand should the visitor suffer any physical or mental setback from the natural fear and anxiety isolation and incarceration bring, even when release is assured. Ordinary inmates cannot expect such help. Though Model Prison Rules require one doctor for every 300 inmates, the national average is about 775. In these tense, high-risk, often lethal spaces, illness and death are constant; suicide can be three times higher than outside, turning temporary loss of freedom into a death sentence.

Towards real reform

Prison conditions are appalling. Jails are the dumping grounds of a careless justice system. Saddled with ramshackle infrastructure, deficient funds, and unsuitable, insufficient staff, they cannot return rehabilitated atmanirbhar citizens into society, as the policy demands.

Imagination must go beyond building more jails faster: create a professional cadre of jail administrators, not parachuted-in police officers whose instincts lie elsewhere. Foolish provisions jailing people for trivial infractions and unjustified arrests that smack of unchecked power must go. Reform needs greater diligence from adjudicators and supervisors. Magistrates need regular instruction on probation, remand and bail – not only "bail not jail" sermons. The elephant in the room is a culture of lapses.

Telangana's prison tourism experiment has met with mixed reviews. Any initiative that brings attention to prisons, their populations, conditions, and the administrative difficulties that compound them deserves a sympathetic hearing.

However, the visitor who has a thousand rupees to spare for a night of government-sponsored discomfort seems an unlikely candidate for a future stay. The experiment might be better served – and reform better accelerated – if the target audience were drawn from those with greater decision-making power, or even greater access to spare income. Those with a bent of mind for certain kinds of creative entrepreneurship, who might one day find themselves in a facility rather less sanitised than the one on offer in Telangana. They could yet prove the most persuasive vanguard for prison reform in this country.

(The writer is Chief Editor, India Justice Report)

Dear Dad, next month she'll watch. One day, she could play

NIKHIL KULKARNI

It was 9:30 on Friday, the second of May, in our Sydney home when my phone buzzed. My seven-year-old immediately told me, quite firmly, to put it away. I told her I was waiting for something.

"They're announcing the Indian women's T20 World Cup squad," I said. She considered this for a moment, then asked: "Is Shreyanka going to be there?" Born and growing up in Australia, she is more familiar with Australian cricketers. Ellyse Perry is her favourite. But she knew Shreyanka Patil because I had met Shreyanka in Sydney earlier this year during the T20I series, and because she plays for Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) along with Perry. I told her yes. Shreyanka was in the squad.

Today, Shreyanka Patil is a Women's Premier League (WPL) champion, a key part of India's T20I setup, and one of the most exciting players in the women's game.

But her path here was far from easy. There were years of grind, injuries that set her back, and a long wait for the recognition her talent deserved.

Her social media feed reflects the positivity and energy of a passionate cricketer. Something she posted recently caught my attention. A photo with her father, with the caption: "Love you Appa. My father is my Hero and my biggest supporter." It made me reflect on how critical her father's support must have been in her journey to get here.

Arjun Dev Nagendra is the founder of the New Innings Cricket Enterprise (NICE) academy in Bengaluru. As Shreyanka's coach and manager, he has seen her through the highs and the lows and knows what separates those who make it to elite levels from those who don't. He is clear about one thing: a father's support is not a nice-to-have. It is often the difference. As he puts it, "Family support is so important for any young cricketer. And when the father shows up and actively supports his daughter, it becomes a critical factor in how far she can go. It sends a message that her dream is worth taking seriously. Shreyanka's father was exactly that kind of support."

Not every young girl is as fortunate as Shreyanka. According to a 2024 UNESCO report, globally, 49% of girls drop out of sport during adolescence, compared to just 8% of boys. Closer to home, a study by Indian academics from leading universities identified a lack of family support as one of the most critical barriers holding women back from sport in India. In most Indian households, the father is the key decision-maker. But it is not enough to simply say yes. Fathers who show up consistently, in the small everyday decisions, are the ones whose daughters persist, thrive, and go further than anyone expected.

Living in Australia, I have had the good fortune of seeing what active involvement looks like. Attending Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) matches has become an annual ritual, staying back so my daughter can meet the players and collect an autograph.

During the summer of 2024-25, we participated in the Daughters and Dads Cricket programme, developed by Prof Philip Morgan at the University of Newcastle, where fathers and daughters share nine weeks on the pitch, learning cricket and building confidence together. The cricket skills came. But the real win was watching her pick up the bat, get on the field, and grow in confidence.

The following season, she joined Woolworths Cricket Blast, Cricket Australia's entry-level programme for children under ten. Through that, she got the chance to walk out onto the Sydney Cricket Ground during the lunch break of the Pink Test earlier this year. She may not have grasped how significant that moment was. She will, as she grows up. I will admit I'm a little selfish in hoping she picks cricket. But it is really not about cricket. It is about what sport does to a young girl: the resilience, the character, the confidence.

In a few weeks, Shreyanka Patil will be in England, representing India at the T20 World Cup. Growing up in North Karnataka in the 1990s, I could not have imagined how far women's cricket in India would come. India are ODI World Champions. The WPL has transformed what is possible. Women and men cricketers get equal match fees. The crowds, the contracts, the coverage: it is extraordinary how much has changed.

But there is still so much more to be done. The next Shreyanka is already out there and needs her father to show up. She will come from a home where her father said yes, and kept saying yes. That is on us, dads. The squad heading to England next month had fathers who showed up. Soon, your daughter will watch the Women In Blue take on the world. One day, she could be one of them. The next step is yours. Hand her a bat and stand next to her while she holds it.

(The writer grew up in North Karnataka and now lives in Sydney, Australia. He is the author of My Summer of Cricket, *a memoir chronicling thirty years as a cricket fanatic and the summer he spent following the Border-Gavaskar Trophy across Australia)*

The deadly virus has spread alarmingly in Congo for months. Only now is the response taking shape

Caught flat-footed, a city races to catch up with Ebola

DECLAN WALSH

Disinfecting the public market on Saturday in Bunia, in the Democratic Republic of Congo's northeast, as part of the response to the Ebola virus's resurgence. NYT

Since an Ebola outbreak was declared in Bunia, a bustling city in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo, global alarms have gone off. Borders have slammed shut, flights have been diverted as far as the United States and the Congolese World Cup team is currently in quarantine in Belgium.

Yet here in Bunia, at the heart of the crisis, the usual signs of an organised response – large medical tents, medics in sealed white suits and goggles and patients lying in strict isolation – are not yet in place.

Instead, the incipient aid effort is only getting set up. Outside Bunia's main hospital on Saturday, workers hammered nails and pushed up tents a few yards from the main door, in a frantic scramble to erect a handful of isolation wards where patients can be triaged, isolated and treated.

"The virus is far ahead of us," said Ahmed Mahat, a manager with International Medical Corps, which is building two of the isolation wards. "And it's spreading fast."

The world is playing catch-up in Congo. Caught flat-footed by an outbreak that was discovered disastrously late – perhaps two months after it started – the system of international response is struggling onto its feet.

Almost nothing was in place when the first patient was confirmed with the rare Bundibugyo species of the virus on May 15. Shortly after, Macky Mbavugha, a field manager with the International Rescue Committee, contacted the local health office to see if it had stocks of protective equipment. He found empty shelves.

"Zero," he said. "Everyone was totally unprepared."

A rapid spread

President Trump's aid cuts exacerbated the crisis, he added. If American funding for Congo had not been slashed last year, "maybe the alert would have sounded earlier," Mbavugha said, echoing a widely held assessment in the aid community.

And when larger aid groups sought out local organisations to boost the Ebola response, many were gone, having closed after funding dried up last year, he said.

Not only was the virus a rare species – with no cure or vaccine, and few tests for it available in the field – it enjoyed a spectacular headstart over the aid workers who were trying to contain it. Only a week ago, the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimated that 246 people had contracted the virus, mostly in the area around Bunia and a nearby district.

By Sunday, that figure was over 900, Congolese authorities said, and 175 others had died, according to the WHO – an acceleration at such an early stage of an outbreak that experts said was terrifying. Just 10 days since the Ebola outbreak was declared, it is already the third largest on record.

Even now, just about everything is in short supply. Congolese health workers treating patients or burying the dead lack basic protective equipment. Supplies of hand sanitiser have run out in the pharmacies of Bunia. And, crucially, only a trickle of tests are being processed every day at the city's government lab.

Aid officials briefed on the lab say that it processes about 40 tests most days, and one day managed just 20 because officials ran out of fuel for the generator that powers it.

Most of all, aid workers are short on time. Running so far behind the virus, intervention has become less about vanquishing Ebola than about simply trying to slow its steamroller advance across the region. Although the outbreak is concentrated in Ituri, the war-torn province of which Bunia is the capital, it has also been detected in two other provinces as well as in neighbouring Uganda.

An American official, speaking anonymously to discuss sensitive assessments, said officials deem it highly likely that the virus has also spread into South Sudan.

Ebola is a highly contagious disease that spreads through bodily fluids. A family of fruit bats is believed to be the natural host of the viruses that cause Ebola. There have been just two other known outbreaks of the Bundibugyo species, which has a fatality rate of about 40%.

This is Congo's 17th outbreak of Ebola, more than any other country since the disease was discovered here in 1976. For Bunia, a lush city on the edge of a sprawling rainforest, the outbreak is the latest of many calamities.

I landed here on Friday aboard a plane of United Nations peacekeepers, mostly from South Asia. They are part of a long-standing effort to impose peace on an area where ethnic rivalries and rich resources – gold, timber and coffee – have brought decades of conflict.

Rival militias overran Bunia in the early 2000s, battling for control in fighting that by 2003 became so intense that France deployed military troops to impose a peace. Now the government is back in Bunia, but the surrounding countryside is controlled by a plethora of armed groups formed mostly along ethnic lines, although one particularly vicious outfit has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State.

Those ethnic tensions are likely also to shape the response to Ebola. Two isolation wards are planned for the city – one each for neighbourhoods dominated by Hemas and Lendus, the dominant, rival ethnic groups.

Years of conflict have also frayed communities where conspiracy theories about Ebola hold particularly strong. As aid workers rush to build isolation wards, they are confronting angry mobs who accuse them of being somehow responsible for the virus. In recent days, furious crowds burned down one isolation ward in Rwampara, just outside Bunia, and a second one in Mongbwalu, a small mining town to the north of the city that experts say is the likely epicentre of the outbreak.

Funerals are a particular flashpoint. In rural areas, people often demand to bury the dead in the traditional custom, which involves much touching of the corpse, even though that is also a perfect way to spread the disease.

In Bunia, many are just coming to terms with the growing epidemic. Some residents appeared to take it lightly — splashing about in public pools in recent days, or meeting with friends at saunas, a popular entertainment.

But increasingly, worry is taking hold. On Friday night, Joel Mugisa, a 30-year-old doctor, traipsed between pharmacies in search of hand sanitiser. Every shop was sold out.

He said he wasn't panicking just yet, but worried about other people, and the widespread penchant for conspiracy theories. "People don't take Ebola seriously," he said, before vanishing into the night. "That's the main problem."

The New York Times

A silent war on the bees

PANDURANG HEGDE

World Bee Day is celebrated on May 20 to raise awareness about the crucial role of honeybees as the primary agents of pollination, which helps preserve the health of the planet and its inhabitants. This year, the theme is 'Bee Together for People and the Planet', emphasising the linkages between bees and humans for food and livelihoods.

I received messages on social media about celebrations across India and different parts of the world. Ironically, on this day, I had to clean hundreds of dead honeybees from the bee boxes in our farm. I had six colonies ready for honey harvest.

The bees had gone foraging, and when they returned to their colonies, they brought contaminated, toxic pollen. As they are sensitive insects, hundreds of them died – some swirling, trembling, and losing their senses.

The sight was shocking. It looked like a war, waged by humans on bees.

The reason was clear. Someone from the neighbouring farm sprayed pesticides on areca trees to control the dropping of areca buds and increase the yield. Unaware of this toxic trap, the bees visited the areca trees for foraging. When they returned, they carried this toxic pesticide residue, leading to their deaths.

Our farm is situated in the Malenad region of Sirsi, on the edge of evergreen forests. This region is known for the cultivation of horticultural crops, especially spice and areca gardens. It has a history of crops evolving alongside the bees that help pollinate and increase yields. For decades, the farmers of the region followed organic practices. However, in recent years, cultivation methods have seen a major shift, with increased use of chemical inputs and pesticides for better yields.

There is no scientific evidence suggesting a positive impact of pesticide application on areca yields. Ironically, the Horticulture Department, which promotes bee-keeping, also advises spraying pesticides on horticulture crops, which leads to bee deaths. This contradiction is not limited to horticulture crops; indiscriminate spraying of pesticides is posing a major threat across the country.

India imports huge quantities of neonicotinoids that are added as seed coating to crops like soya and corn to reduce spraying.

However, it has been proven that this causes extensive damage to bee populations across the world. The European Union has banned these pesticides, but they are exported to countries like India. Without strong regulations on their use, they place bee populations and human health under threat.

A study conducted in Odisha showed how pesticides adversely impact the local *Apis cerana* bees. It highlighted how pesticide exposure damages the honeybees' brains, leading to memory loss, and impacts their neuro-physiological processes that have critical consequences for the survival of the bees.

India has established a National Bee Board to promote bee-keeping and honey production, under the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission. It aims to promote the country as a global leader in honey and bee products. However, policy lags behind the reality of pesticide use and the bee deaths it causes.

The governments, both in the Centre and the states, promote bee-keeping through various schemes. However, these initiatives don't have linkages to the wider implications of threats posed to bee populations in domesticated spaces and in the wild.

The farmers appear to have declared war on the bees, but more striking are the flawed state policies that offer no solution. Every year, 65,000 tons of pesticides are sprayed on our crops. In recent years, the extensive use of glyphosate, a weed-killer, has had a devastating impact on bees. Across most urban areas, it is common practice to spray pesticides on colonies of giant rock bees (*Apis dorsata*) that build hives on buildings.

Honey is a byproduct of a larger system. It is the bees, playing an invisible role as pollinators, that help sustain our food production and preserve the health of our planet. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), almost 80% of the pollination for food and horticultural crops depends on honeybees and other insects. The decimation of bee populations will therefore directly impact the world's food security.

We need to change our attitude towards the creatures around us, especially the bees. The government must acknowledge their significance to life and ban pesticides that threaten their survival.

(The writer is a farmer, environmentalist, and convener of Save Honeybees Campaign)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: MAY 1976

Bill to ban cutting of trees moved

Bangalore, May 25
A legislation to make cutting of trees a penal offence liable to three months' imprisonment or a fine of Rs. 1,000 or both was introduced in the State Assembly today. The Karnataka Preservation of Trees Bill, 1976 vests any tree officer or his subordinate with powers to arrest any person without a warrant, who has been suspected of having been concerned in any offence under this Act. Forest Minister C. N. Patil introduced the Bill.

25 YEARS AGO: MAY 2001

In letter to Musharraf, PM stresses on reconciliation

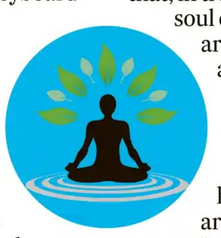
New Delhi, May 25
The Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee today asked Pakistani Chief Executive General Pervez Musharraf to return to the letter and spirit of the Lahore Declaration and walk the high road of reconciliation and dialogue to address all outstanding bilateral issues, including Kashmir. The PM's call is contained in his invitation letter to General Musharraf, which India's acting High Commissioner Sudhir Vyas formally handed over to Pakistani Foreign Secretary Inamul Haq at Islamabad.

OASIS | BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ

The crisis of values is a crisis of self

The present world crisis, which in reality is the crisis of values, is in fact a deep crisis of self-identity. This crisis of values also has resulted from the loss of the knowledge of the real identity of the self. While man has discovered many 'lost continents' or landmasses on the globe, this continent of the self has yet to be discovered or rediscovered by all of us.

Thus, man has first to be made aware of the truth that he has, in him, a certain potential of divine qualities or a core of human values and that these qualities or values, within him, have gone deep down in the sea of the subconscious and the unconscious mind and have now to be brought again to the surface, into the light, and have to be used as the keyboard for actions.



Man has also to be given a realisation of the truth that, with the cremation or burial of the dead body, all man's deeds, good or bad, done by him during his lifetime, or the abilities and qualities acquired by him over a period of time, are not all lost.

It is important to remember that man's good actions will not go unrewarded forever and that he does not escape punishment for his bad actions. Unless and until man realises that, in truth, he is an eternal being, a soul or a being of light and that so are other beings, his outlook and his attitude towards all others do not undergo a total change.

Today we all identify ourselves with the body that we have acquired because we are unaware of the immortal entity called 'soul' which resides within us and functions through our body.

This ignorance about the existence of the soul and considering one's physical existence as the 'be all and end all' of everything results in man's adopting wrong values in life, which in turn leads to his committing wrong acts and consequently causes suffering to him.

No wonder, in spite of striving hard, he is unable to avoid sorrow and sufferings in life.

Hence, in order to live a peaceful, contented, happy and liberated life, proper knowledge of one's real self, i.e., the soul, its functioning and its role in the world's drama is a 'must'. So start some soul-searching from now onwards and embark on a wonderful journey of self-discovery.

ENERGY CRISIS: Opposition flags fuel shortages and long queues at parl panel meeting

India has 78-day crude oil buffer: Ministry officials

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

WEST ASIA JOLT

- Panel briefed on West Asia crisis impact on maritime trade
- 13 Indian ships stranded in Hormuz; 37 stuck in March
- Oppn questions absence of data, presses for advance planning
- Members flag rising oil, fertiliser prices and impact on common people

Top officials from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Monday assured a parliamentary panel that the country holds sufficient crude oil stocks to last for 78 days, even as Opposition members raised concerns over reported fuel shortages and long queues at petrol pumps in parts of the country.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, which met to discuss the implications of the ongoing West Asia crisis on India's maritime trade, shipping infrastructure, and seafarer safety, heard detailed briefings from officials of the Petroleum, Shipping, and Fertilisers ministries.

Officials informed the panel that 13 Indian ships remain stranded in West Asia following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, noting that as many as 37 Indian vessels were stuck in the region in March.

Insurance premiums for cargo ships have also risen significantly due to the situation, the officials said.

'Proactive measures'

While acknowledging the uncertainty over when the conflict would end, Petroleum Ministry officials emphasised that the government has taken proactive steps to prevent any major fuel shortage.

Opposition members, however, grilled the officials over reports of "long queues" and "rationing" of petrol and diesel at certain pumps.

They also flagged the absence of official data from the ministry on shortages and questioned why adequate corrective measures were not taken in advance, given the prolonged nature of the West Asia crisis.

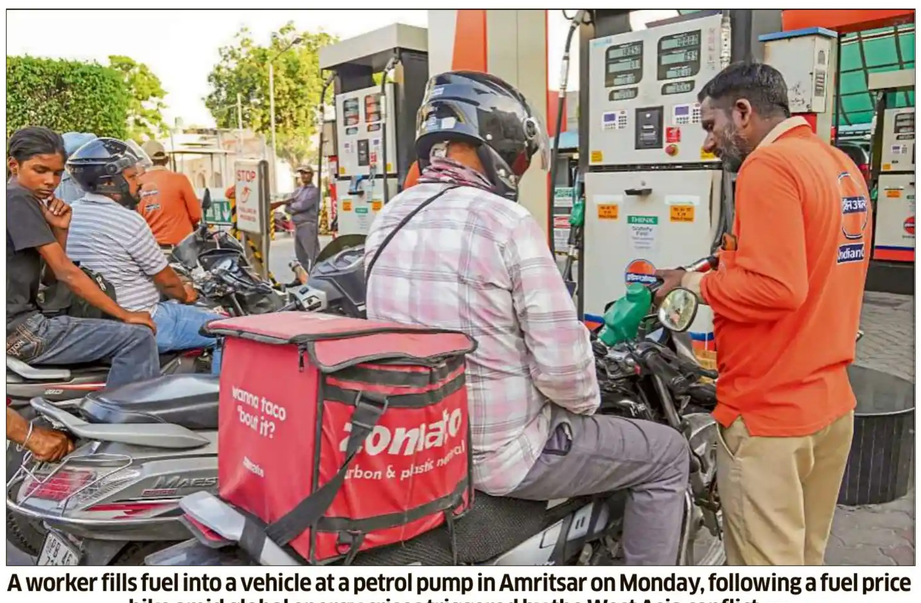
Members also raised issues related to rising oil and fertiliser prices and their impact on common people, pressing the officials on the need for advance planning.

Fertiliser stock

On the fertiliser front, the officials assured the committee that there is no shortage ahead of the Kharif sowing season. The government has made alternative arrangements and procured around 80 lakh tonnes of fertilisers from other sources. Current demand stands at approximately 78 lakh tonnes, which is being fully met, they said.

Sanjay Jha, chairperson of the standing committee, lauded the government's handling of the crisis.

"You know that India has not done this; the whole world is facing it. The initiatives that have been taken... We also do not know how long this will continue, but the government is addressing the situation. Things are under control at the moment," Jha told reporters.



A worker fills fuel into a vehicle at a petrol pump in Amritsar on Monday, following a fuel price hike amid global energy crises triggered by the West Asia conflict. PTI

Fuel supply being monitored after dryouts in select pockets

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Amid reports of panic buying and temporary dryouts at some pumps in Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh, the Centre on Monday said it is closely monitoring fuel supplies on a daily basis and taking immediate steps to ensure sufficient stocks of petrol, diesel, and LPG at retail outlets.

Insisting that the country has enough stocks of all three fuels, Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, told media persons that oil marketing companies were closely tracking retail outlets and replenishing stocks to prevent any fuel dry-outs.

She attributed the shortages at a few outlets to a sudden 20-30% surge in demand triggered by heightened agricultural consumption, bulk users shifting to retail pumps due to price advantages, and consumers moving from private outlets to public sector ones where fuel is cheaper by at least Rs 5 per litre for petrol and Rs 3 for diesel.

She emphasised that normal stock levels at pumps cover 2-3 days of demand, and the sudden spike has created last-mile logistical challenges in replenishing supplies quickly, even though depots and terminals hold sufficient reserves.

'Avoid panic buying'

The government has urged consumers to avoid panic buying and conserve fuel. Sujata encouraged shifting to alternatives such as piped natural gas (PNG) and induction cookers wherever possible.

In a proactive measure, the Centre held a video conference with officials from all states and Union Territories, seeking their cooperation to monitor local situations and prevent hoarding or mismanagement.

State governments have also been roped in to check any irregularities, she said.

Despite global energy disruptions caused by the West Asia conflict, which has impacted about 40% of India's crude oil imports, 90% of LPG imports, and 65% of natural gas imports, Sujata said India has secured alternative sources for crude oil and ramped up domestic LPG production at refineries to around 50,000 tonnes per day.

'Inflation man strikes again': Rahul targets PM Modi

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

RAHUL GANDHI
Leader of the Opposition in LS

"For months, I had been warning of an impending economic storm. But Modi Ji, true to form, was busy with elections at the time and the moment the elections ended, he hiked the prices of petrol and diesel by Rs 8.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the fourth fuel price hike in less than a fortnight, claiming that the "Mehangai Manav (Inflation Man)" had struck again and that his only job was making promises during elections and hitting people's pockets at other times.

His remarks came as petrol and diesel prices were raised by Rs 2.61-2.71 per litre on Monday, taking the cumulative increase to around Rs 7.50 per litre.

"The 'Mehangai Manav' strikes again. They increase petrol and diesel prices in instalments—so your pocket keeps getting picked quietly, little by little. I had been warning for months that an economic storm was coming. But Modi-ji, as always, was busy with elections—and the moment the elections ended, petrol and diesel were made Rs 8 more expensive," Rahul posted on X.

"And these hikes will continue. Inflation Man Modi has only one job—make promises during elections, and spend the rest of the time hitting the public's pockets," he said.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge asked who was benefitting from this "daily robbery". He said every fuel price hike was another blow to household budgets and had a cascading effect on every aspect of the economy.

"The daily assault of fuel loot is not over yet! Fourth hike in 10 days!! Petrol – Rs 7.35/litre. Diesel – Rs 7.53/litre. The Modi government has sprinkled petrol to burn the savings of common people. From farmers to MSMEs, every stratum of society bears the brunt of BJP's loot. We repeat: Who is benefitting from this daily robbery?" he said.

Kharge claimed that between 2004 and 2014, when the UPA was in power, international crude oil prices rose by 175.34 per cent, whereas during the Modi government, "not even a single cent" had increased.

"Despite that, the Modi government has hiked petrol prices from Rs 71.41 per litre in 2014 to Rs 102.12 per litre in 2026, a rise of 43.01 per cent, and diesel prices from Rs 56.71 per litre to Rs 95.20 per litre, an increase of 67.87 per cent," he added.

Arvind Kejriwal said oil prices had risen again, yet India was still not buying cheap oil from Russia and Iran. "What is Modi's compulsion that India will not buy cheap oil from Russia and Iran?" he asked.

Iran's deputy finance minister dials Misri on West Asia crisis

NEW DELHI, PTI: Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht Ravanchi dialled Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Monday and is believed to have apprised him of Tehran's negotiations with Washington to end the ongoing crisis in West Asia.

The phone conversation came amid indications that the US and Iran are looking at a preliminary deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz before hammering out a comprehensive peace agreement.

"Foreign Secretary @VikramMisri received a call from Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs of Iran @TakhtRavanchi," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on social media.

"Discussions focused on recent developments in the region and a review of bilateral cooperation," he said.

Earlier, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in New Delhi that the US has made significant progress in negotiations with Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

However, Rubio, currently on a four-day visit to India, said that President Donald Trump is maintaining a cautious approach and will not accept a bad deal.

The key sticking points in the US-Iran peace talks have been Iran's nuclear programme and control over the Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly one-fifth of the world's energy supplies pass in normal times.

30-yr-old techie arrested for abusive post on CM Vijay

CHENNAI, DHNS: A software engineer working for a top-tier company was arrested by the Tamil Nadu Police in Tirunelveli on Monday for posting derogatory and abusive content on social media against Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay over the sexual assault and murder of a 10-year-old girl in Coimbatore.

James Raja, 30, who identifies himself as a supporter of the Dravidian Stock and claims to be part of the "DMK Udhayanidhi Stalin Army", has been booked under four sections of the BNS and BNSS, including spreading fake news and criminal intimidation.

Police said Raja was arrested after a case was filed against him at the Palayamkottai police station. "He has been arrested for his derogatory and defamatory remarks against the CM," a senior police officer said.

Raja, who has over 1 lakh followers on Instagram, had posted a series of videos questioning the new TVK government for its failure to prevent sexual crimes against women, kids.

Film workers' body bans Ranveer Singh over *Don 3* exit

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Ranveer Singh

In a major development reflecting growing tensions within the Hindi film industry over contractual commitments and professional accountability, the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) has issued a non-cooperation directive against actor Ranveer Singh following a dispute linked to his his last-minute exit from the upcoming film Don 3.

The action came after filmmaker-actor Farhan Akhtar and production house Excel Entertainment approached FWICE with concerns regarding the actor's withdrawal from the project at an advanced stage of pre-production.

The FWICE said it had received a complaint from the Indian Film and Television Directors' Association, following which the federation convened meetings involving all concerned parties, including Farhan Akhtar, producer Ritesh Sidhwani and Ranveer Singh. According to FWICE, producers informed the body that nearly Rs 45 crore had been spent on film's pre-production work.

Meanwhile, Ranveer said he will continue to "hold deep respect and goodwill" for all those involved.

Sarma govt tables UCC bill in Assam Assembly

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

UNIFORM JUSTICE

- Compulsory registration of marriages and divorces within 60 days
- The bill seeks to include the spouse, children and parents of the deceased for inheritance of properties
- Mandatory registration of live-in relationships within one month, children born out of a live-in relationship to be considered fully legitimate
- Polygamy to be prohibited, imprisonment up to 7 years for the guilty

The BJP-led government in Assam on Monday introduced the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill in the Assembly that seeks to prohibit polygamy and make registration of live-in relationships mandatory, among others.

The Uniform Civil Code, Assam 2026, bill also seeks to make registration of all marriages and divorce compulsory and include the spouse, children and parents of the deceased as legal heirs to inheritance.

The bill, if passed in the Assembly on Wednesday, will make Assam the third state after Uttarakhand and Gujarat to promulgate UCC. The UCC was one of the BJP's major promises in the manifesto for the Assembly elections.

Cabinet Minister Atul Bora—who is the president of Asom Gana Parishad, a regional ally of BJP—tabled the bill in the Assembly on behalf of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who is in New Delhi.

"The bill seeks to protect the rights and dignity of our women," Bora said after it was introduced in the Assembly amid opposition by the Congress and its allies.

The bill establishes a single civil legal framework for all residents regarding marriage, divorce, succession and live-in relationships. It excludes Scheduled Tribes to preserve their constitutional protections while replacing various religion-based personal laws to ensure absolute equality and gender justice, said a note on the bill, issued by the state government.

While it seeks to make registration of live-in relationships, the bill says any child born out of a live-in relationship would be considered fully legitimate, and it grants a deserted live-in partner the explicit legal standing to claim financial maintenance through the courts.

Opposing the bill, Akhil Gogoi, an MLA from Sivasagar and president of Raijor Dal, said, "The bill has nothing new. The provisions like the ban on polygamy, registration of marriage or minimum age for marriage are already there, except for those related to live-in relationships. The CM has introduced the bill only to appease his high command and the Sangh Parivar."

Three AIADMK MLAs resign, join TVK

DMK chief Stalin, Palaniswami allege 'horse trading'

E T B SIVAPRIYAN,
CHENNAI, DHNS

M K STALIN
DMK president

"From calling themselves as pure force, the TVK has turned into a grief force, and did the people vote to witness such nonsense.

EDAPPADI K PALANISWAMI
AIADMK chief

"This has exposed the pre-planned conspiracy, a horse-trading. AIADMK has braved many back-stabbings and betrayals to serve the public.

Three rebel AIADMK MLAs who voted in favour of the TVK government during the May 13 trust vote resigned from their posts on Monday and immediately joined the ruling party.

The move – and observers believe more rebel AIADMK MLAs are likely to follow – is aimed at helping the ruling TVK secure a majority of its own in the 234-member Tamil Nadu Assembly without depending on support from alliance partners. TVK currently has 107 MLAs and is supported by 13 MLAs from the Congress, VCK, CPM, CPI and IUML.

For now, four constituencies – including Tiruchirapalli (East), which was vacated by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay – will go to bypolls. However, sources told *DH* that the TVK camp is in touch with at least a half-a-dozen AIADMK MLAs who are likely to submit their papers in the next few days.

These former MLAs, who have escaped disqualification under the anti-defection law by resigning, are believed to have been promised TVK tickets for the upcoming bypolls.

The development is a body blow to AIADMK, which has ruled Tamil Nadu for 30 years of its 53 years of existence. Once standing at 47 MLAs, these latest resignations have brought their strength down to 44.

AIADMK was quick to term the resignations as evidence of "horse trading" by the TVK, with its general secretary, Edappadi K Palaniswami, accusing the ruling party of introducing "horse-trading and degrading political practices" to Tamil Nadu.

Former chief minister and DMK president M K Stalin alleged that horse trading was taking place at "horse speed" and needled the Congress for its support of the TVK.

The first phase of 'Operation Whistle' was executed and completed with precision timing in just about two hours, with the signature of Aadhav Arjuna -- son-in-law of PWD Minister and lottery baron Santiago Martin --written all over it.

Arjuna's mother-in-law, Leema Rose Martin, is also a member of the rebel AIADMK group.

The MLAs -- Maragadham Kumaravelu (Madhuranthagam), Jeyakumar (Perundurai) and Sathyabama (Dharapuram) -- handed over their resignation letters at 2.30 pm. They then walked up a floor to meet Arjuna at 2.45 pm at his chamber in the Secretariat to receive their TVK membership cards. At 3.55 pm, the Speaker accepted their resignations, and they met Chief Minister Vijay at 4.15 pm.

The development came even as four rebel MLAs left the rebel camp on Monday to return to the AIADMK fold.

Over 300 tourists rescued in 7-hour op after Gulmarg Gondola snag

SRINAGAR, DHNS: Hundreds of tourists were safely rescued on Monday after the Gulmarg Gondola cable car service in north Kashmir's Baramulla district developed a technical snag, forcing suspension of operations and leaving passengers stranded mid-air for over seven hours, officials said.

They said nearly 300 tourists were trapped inside 65 cabins, nearly 500 ft above the ground, after the cable car system abruptly stopped functioning due to a technical glitch.

The malfunction affected both phases of the gondola service, one of Kashmir's biggest tourist attractions. Authorities said all cabins remained stable during the incident, and no injuries were reported.

Eyewitnesses said panic gripped tourists, including women and children, after the cable cars stopped mid-air, but rescue teams managed to evacuate all passengers safely.

The incident also revived memories of a deadly accident involving the gondola in June 2017, when seven people, including four tourists from Delhi, were killed after a tree uprooted by strong winds fell on the ropeway, causing a cable car cabin to crash.

Rescue operation underway after around 300 tourists were stranded aboard the largest cable car as the system developed technical problems, at a Gulmarg resort. PTI

India to submit letter of request for 114 Rafale jets to France

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India is all set to submit a Letter of Request to France on the purchase of 114 Rafale fighter jets in a government-to-government deal, three months after the Defence Ministry gave a green signal to the Rs 3.25 lakh crore purchase.

Once a response comes from the manufacturer Dassault Aviation, a contract negotiation committee would be set up to finalise the deal, following which it would go to the cabinet committee on security for final clearance, sources said.

The aircraft's manufacturer, Dassault Aviation, will produce 96 aircraft in India, for which it would tie up with local industries, sources said, adding that the remaining 18 would come in a flyaway condition. The 114 aircraft will be a mix of 88 single-seater and 26 twin-seater (trainer) versions.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A P Singh is scheduled to visit France on a three-day official tour in the first week of June, and the Rafale deal is likely to figure in the discussions that the IAF chief will have with the French officials. However, it is not clear whether submission of the LoR will coincide with the air chief marshal's visit.

Nevertheless, some forward movement on the long-awaited deal is expected next month, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit France in June to attend the G7 meeting.

The IAF currently has 36 Rafale fighter jets at Ambala and Hasimara air bases, while the Indian Navy last year ordered 26 Rafale-Marine for its aircraft carriers. The delivery of Rafale-M will begin by 2028.

India faces an urgent need for fighter jets, as the current combat aircraft squadron strength is down to 29, which is the lowest operational strength the force has seen in six decades. It falls short of the sanctioned strength of 42 squadrons required to manage a simultaneous two-front threat.

BJD leader Samantaray quits party

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The post-2024 electoral debacle continues to trigger trouble in the Biju Janata Dal, with its Rajya Sabha MP Debashish Samantaray quitting the party and resigning from the Upper House, claiming that he had been "systematically belittled" despite working for the party with "utmost conviction and commitment".

A vocal critic of V K Pandian, a former bureaucrat-turned-politician seen as the eyes and ears of BJD chief Naveen Patnaik, Samantaray sent a letter to the party chief before submitting his resignation from the Rajya Sabha to Chairman C P Radhakrishnan. Though there was no official word, he is speculated to join the Bharatiya Janata Party soon.

BJD's RS strength

With his resignation, the BJD's strength in the Rajya Sabha has come down to five. In the ensuing bypoll, the BJP is likely to win the seat owing to its numerical strength in the Odisha Assembly.

Samantaray, whose tenure was due to continue till April 2030, is the third Rajya Sabha MP to quit the party following the BJD's debacle in the 2024 Odisha Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. Earlier, Mamata Mohanta and Sujit Kumar had resigned from the Rajya Sabha and later returned to the Upper House on BJP tickets, with Kumar subsequently re-elected for another term.

Twisha death: SC backs CBI probe, warns against media coverage

Says it is 'pained' by the narrative that judiciary is shielding accused

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Madhya Pradesh government to ensure that the case of the alleged dowry death of 33-year-old former model and actor Twisha Sharma is handed over to the CBI. The court also urged the media not to record statements of witnesses or potential accused, warning that such coverage could prejudice the probe.

A three-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said it was "pained" by the narrative that the judiciary was shielding the accused, noting that the state had consented to a CBI probe.

COURT DIRECTIVES

- SC asks Madhya Pradesh govt to hand over case to CBI
- Asks media not to publish witness/accused statements
- Solicitor General Mehta assures CBI takeover
- SC urges family, witnesses to record statements before agency, not via sound bites

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Madhya Pradesh government, submitted that the CBI would take over the investigation and assured the court that the necessary administrative steps would be taken.

'No media bites'

The court asked the victim's family and potential witnesses to record their statements before the investigating agency, not through media sound bites.

On Saturday, the bench took suo motu cognisance of the unnatural death.

Questions of institutional bias were raised regarding the probe, along with allegations that a fair investigation was being denied because the accused's husband is a lawyer and his mother a former district judge.

Maintaining that public speculation must stop and faith must be placed in the premier investigating agency, the bench said it had expressed no opinion on the merits and that the CBI must examine all aspects of the case.

In its order, the bench recorded that Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the court that a second autopsy had been conducted in Bhopal by a team from AIIMS Delhi. The body was thereafter cremated. The only issue for consideration was the state's consent to a CBI probe.

Mehta assured the court that the matter would be taken up with the authorities so the CBI could immediately assume charge of the investigation.

17-year-old murdered in Madurai; CM Vijay holds meeting

CHENNAI, DHNS: A 17-year-old minor boy was murdered by a five-member gang inside a parking lot near the famous Meenakashi Amman Temple in Madurai, allegedly over previous enmity, providing enough fodder for the Opposition parties to corner the fortnight-old TVK government over the law and order situation in Tamil Nadu.

Hours after the incident, which came just two days after a 10-year-old girl was sexually assaulted and murdered, Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay held a review meeting with top officials from the police, and social welfare departments, and the Advocate-General to take stock of the situation.

Police said Gubendran was hacked to death early Monday inside the parking lot managed by the Madurai Corporation by a five-member gang headed by Muthumani.

"Gubendran died on the spot while police arrested Muthumani and four others within hours of the murder. Gubendran and Muthumani had clashed with each other during the Chithirai festival in April this year, and this could be the reason for the murder," a senior police officer told *DH*. The deceased, though a minor, had several cases registered against him.

The murder sent shock waves across the state with incidents of crime hitting the headlines.

'Don't take it sentimentally': SC on plea for probe into CJP

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday declined to grant an urgent hearing on a plea seeking a probe into allegations of fake advocates and activities linked to the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), a satirical digital outfit that has taken social media by storm.

A bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant told advocate NK Goswami, appearing for the petitioner, not to take the issue "so sentimentally".

Goswami submitted that despite the CJI's clarification, a distorted and malicious narrative continued. "Don't take it so sentimentally," the CJI said.

Another counsel contended that they were seeking a CBI probe into the issue of fake law degrees. The counsel stressed that courtroom exchanges cannot be used for commercial purposes.

The CJI replied, "There is no such grave urgency. We will see."

The plea also sought action against those involved in the alleged commercial exploitation of oral observations made during court proceedings. It sought an investigation into fake advocates practising law using fraudulent degrees.

The plea also expressed concern over the misuse of judicial proceedings and claimed that remarks and observations made during court proceedings were being used for publicity campaigns.

Recently, there was controversy over remarks attributed to CJI Surya Kant on "cockroaches" and "parasites" during a May 15 hearing on a plea concerning senior designation for a lawyer.

On May 16, the CJI issued a strongly worded clarification of his remarks, saying he was "pained" by media reports suggesting he had criticised the youth.

He emphasised that his remarks were specifically directed at individuals entering the legal profession through "fake and bogus degrees" and were "misquoted by a section of the media".

Top court flags indiscriminate cases against kin in matrimonial disputes

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday held that criminal law cannot be set in motion against every relative of a husband in matrimonial disputes on the basis of sweeping, omnibus allegations lacking specific facts.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N Kotiswar Singh emphasised that while protecting victims of domestic violence is crucial, courts must ensure that criminal proceedings are not indiscriminately extended to family members without a clear factual foundation establishing their active involvement. The SC observed that matrimonial disputes often involve heightened emotions, leading to complaints that routinely implicate not just the husband but his entire family, including kins who may have had little or no role in discord.

Mere familial association or failure to support the wife cannot, by itself, constitute a criminal offence, the court said.

"Courts are required to exercise greater caution and carefully scrutinise whether the allegations genuinely disclose the commission of cognisable offences against each accused individually," the bench remarked.

The court made these observations while quashing a 2023 FIR registered in Madhya Pradesh against Arti Mehta and three other family members of a man, which included charges under the Dowry Prohibition Act.

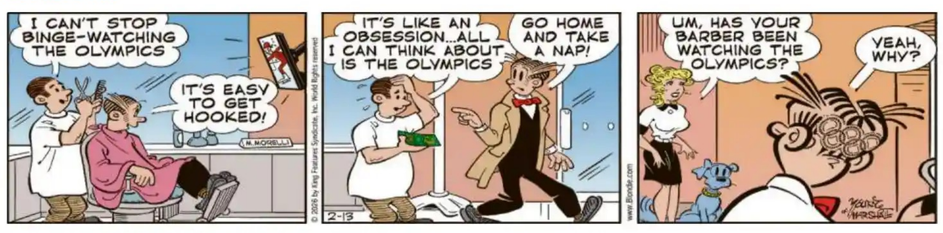
It also quashed parallel proceedings initiated against them under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act.

The court noted that the marriage between the complainant and man had already been dissolved by a family court through a decree of divorce during the pendency of the case. It clarified, however, that the trial court should proceed against the remaining accused.

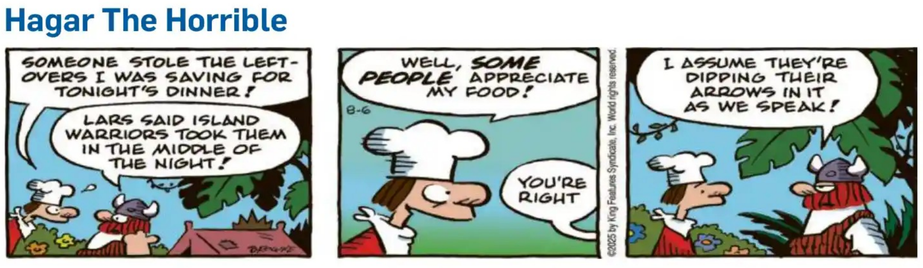
MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie


I CAN'T STOP BINGE-WATCHING THE OLYMPICS
IT'S EASY TO GET HOOKED!
IT'S LIKE AN OBSESSION...ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS THE OLYMPICS
GO HOME AND TAKE A NAP!
UM, HAS YOUR BARBER BEEN WATCHING THE OLYMPICS?
YEAH, WHY?

Hagar The Horrible


SOMEONE STOLE THE LEFTOVERS I WAS SAVING FOR TONIGHT'S DINNER!
LARS SAID ISLAND WARRIORS TOOK THEM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!
WELL, SOME PEOPLE APPRECIATE MY FOOD!
YOU'RE RIGHT
I ASSUME THEY'RE DIPPING THEIR ARROWS IN IT AS WE SPEAK!

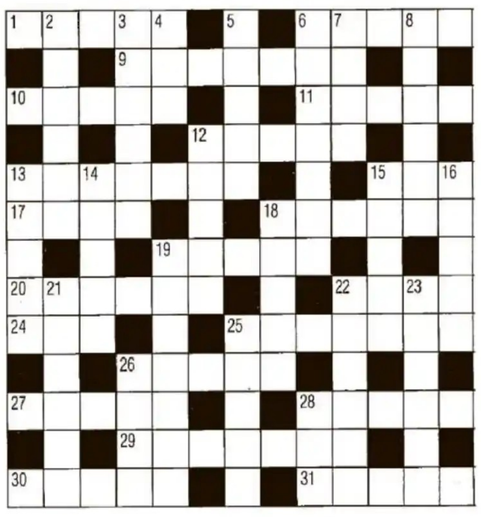
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

THERE'S THE HOUSE WHERE THAT LITTLE RED-HAIRED GIRL LIVES...
MAYBE SHE'LL SEE ME, AND COME RUSHING OUT TO THANK ME FOR THE CHRISTMAS CARD I SENT HER...MAYBE SHE'LL EVEN GIVE ME A HUG...
MAYBE BILLIE JEAN KING WILL CALL ME TONIGHT, AND INVITE ME OUT TO DINNER

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12424



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Like the numerals used in necromancy (5)
6 Keep it closed in order to hum (5)
9 Care in taking shifty action out of turn (7)
10 Close to legless? (5)
11 A measure you can get by the kilo (5)
12 What follows here is futuristic (5)
13 Treated to a parting observation (4,3)
15 Such a failure could take Tom aback (3)
17 Puritan with a shaky grip (4)
18 Rocky beds (6)
19 Parts of Poplar East? (5)
20 Photographer's fancied favourite food? (6)
22 Can he dispense the wisdom of the ages? (4)
24 Heart to heart organ (3)
25 Upright fellows, our deliverers (7)
26 He helped rename modern St. Petersburg (5)
27 Officer in chief (5)
28 Cilla bursts into flower (5)
29 Person not in good odour (7)
30 New fronts for cafes (5)
31 Not a whisper to the audience! (5)

DOWN
2 Nominally, he may take a bath (6)
3 Suffering, wrap one's jaw in pieces of rag (6)
4 The little chap may bite, we hear (3)
5 Those engaged in supporting the flag? (5)
6 Most men can have theirs (7)
7 Uniquely striking example (4)
8 Swimming tutor upset about a bighead (6)
12 Burning fear, perhaps, all around India (5)
13 Room to spread capes (5)
14 A bird called Ida (5)
15 Sometimes heartless form of address (5)
16 Accepted as worth snapping? (5)
18 Where exhibitionists go for hairdressing? (5)
19 Declares the donkey needs to rest anew (7)
21 Smoky city (6)
22 Agitates about a flight! (6)
23 Brigadier's wild rage on the road (6)
25 Should such a stool be soft? (5)
26 Go down and look over the southeast (4)
28 Not all leaves are green (3)

ACROSS
1 Inexpensive (5)
6 Time when dark (5)
9 Wipe one's feet on this (7)
10 Hang loosely (5)
11 Rips (5)
12 Whey (5)
13 Apt to reason correctly (7)
15 Impudent talk (3)
17 Cupid (4)
18 Doglike (6)
19 Inhumane (5)
20 Short light oar (6)
22 Experiment (4)
24 Health resort (3)
25 Confuses (7)
26 Cold dish (5)
27 Small citrus fruit (5)
28 Cults (5)
29 Remainder (7)
30 Main drain (5)
31 Go in (5)

DOWN
2 Extreme fear (6)
3 Handsome youth (6)
4 Short explosive sound (3)
5 Thin porridge (5)
6 Unstudied (7)
7 Article (4)
8 Narcotic drug (6)
12 Cavalry sword (5)
13 Jumps (5)
14 Dutch cheese (5)
15 School punishment (5)
16 Nuisances (5)
18 Surrendered (5)
19 Mrs Mop (7)
21 For each one (6)
22 Serving dish (6)
23 Couch (6)
25 Fundamental (5)
26 Painful (4)
28 Prosecute (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12423

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, Act-o-r 8, Depth 10, Bu-TT-y 11, Le-O 12, Power 13, Strudel 15, Rapid 18, Ta-R 19, Police 21, G-listen 22, Ugly 23, Goof 24, Pull out 26, Crocus 29, Ena 31, Homer 32, Brer Fox 34, Lines 35, Dew 36, Bulls 37, New-el 38, Stand.
DOWN: 1, Delta 2, S-tout-ly 4, Co-ol 5, Oberon 6, Rural 7, Sto-I-c 9, Per 12, Perseus 14, Dai 16, Pilot 17, Deify 19, Peelers 20, Hunch 21, Gloom 23, Guard-Ed 24, Purist 25, On-E 27, Rog-U-e 28, Cells 30, To-we-l 32, B-e'en 33, Few.

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Hazel 8, Bully 10, Lapel 11, Mad 12, Rabat 13, Impetus 15, Thief 18, Rob 19, Needle 21, Altered 22, Holy 23, Meal 24, Slither 26, Acacia 29, Lea 31, Dares 32, Kennels 34, Atlas 35, Dab 36, Dense 37, Set on 38, Erred.
DOWN: 1, Dummy 2, Elderly 4, Alas 5, Elated 6, Lathe 7, Jewel 9, Lap 12, Rubella 14, Tot 16, Idler 17, Feels 19, Nestles 20, Ahead 21, Altar 23, Meander 24, Sister 25, Hen 27, Cater 28, Cease 30, Elbow 32, Kate 33, Eat.

◆ SU-DO-KU-6915 ◆

				7	1			
		4					9	7
6	1		9	8		3		
						9	3	
3			1		5			2
	4	1						
		3		9	8		2	4
4	6					8		
			5	1				

medium

1	6	7	9	4	5	3	8	2
8	2	5	6	3	7	1	4	9
3	9	4	1	2	8	7	5	6
2	3	6	7	5	4	8	9	1
4	5	8	3	9	1	6	2	7
7	1	9	2	8	6	4	3	5
9	4	1	8	6	2	5	7	3
6	8	2	5	7	3	9	1	4
5	7	3	4	1	9	2	6	8

SOLUTION TO 6914

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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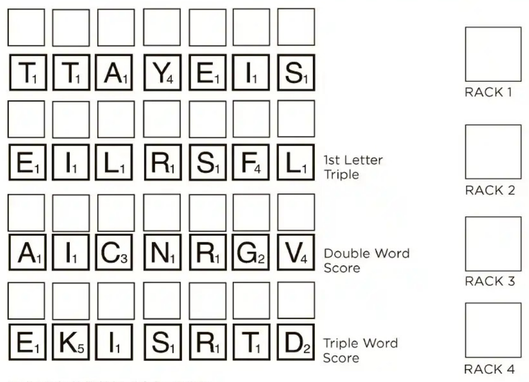

T1 T1 A1 Y4 E1 I1 S1
E1 I1 L1 R1 S1 F4 L1
1st Letter Triple
A1 I1 C3 N1 R1 G2 V4
Double Word Score
E1 K5 I1 S1 R1 T1 D2
Triple Word Score
RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 190-200
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

M3 A1 X8 I1 M3 A1 L1
A1 U1 B3 U1 R1 N1
C3 H4 O1 L1 E1 R1 A1
P3 I1 V4 O1 T1 S1

RACK 1 = 68
RACK 2 = 9
RACK 3 = 86
RACK 4 = 11
JUDD'S TOTAL 174

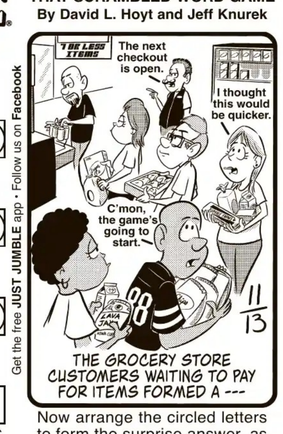
PAR SCORE 115-125

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ROGUD
FOPOR
CALBOT
GENISN


THE LEGS ITEMS
The next checkout is open.
I thought this would be quicker.
C'mon, the game's going to start.
11/13
THE GROCERY STORE CUSTOMERS WAITING TO PAY FOR ITEMS FORMED A ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app · Follow us on Facebook

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WOUND BLAZE ADJUST ZIPPER
Answer: The queen bee's speech to the colony included — BUZZWORDS

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HITORI-3369

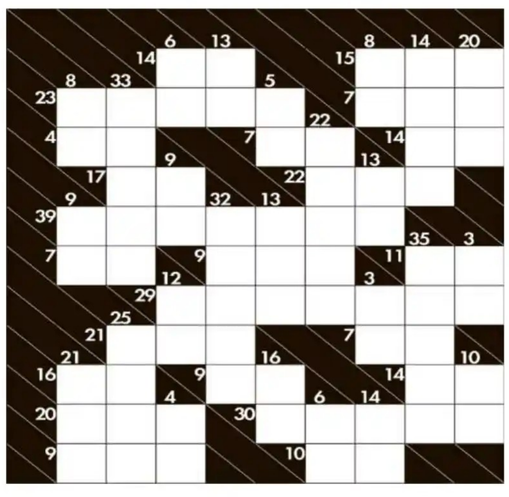
5	6	1	2	7	8	3	5
4	5	5	6	3	7	2	1
3	5	2	5	5	5	8	4
2	7	8	5	4	1	3	6
4	5	7	2	8	5	6	2
6	2	5	7	1	4	8	8
1	4	6	5	2	8	5	7
5	8	5	1	2	3	5	2

SOLUTION TO 3368

8	6	1	7	■	4	2	■
■	8	■	1	7	5	3	4
1	■	8	2	3	■	4	6
7	4	■	6	1	2	■	5
■	2	7	■	4	■	5	3
5	■	4	8	■	6	■	7
4	1	5	■	6	3	8	2
■	5	6	3	2	7	■	1

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3369



SOLUTION TO 3368

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3927

■								7
	2	3			1		■	
7		8	4			■		
3	8	2	■	4	■			5
9				■		6		
5	7		■		■		1	
		■		6		■		1
	3						9	
■	6					8		■

SOLUTION TO 3926

3	2	9	7	5	6	1	4	8
5	7	1	4	3	8	9	2	6
4	8	6	1	9	2	3	7	5
2	9	8	5	7	4	6	3	1
7	6	5	8	1	3	2	9	4
1	4	3	6	2	9	8	5	7
8	3	7	2	6	5	4	1	9
6	5	2	9	4	1	7	8	3
9	1	4	3	8	7	5	6	2

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Toshifumi Suzuki, man behind the 'conbini' empire, dies at 93

TOKYO, AP/PTI: Toshifumi Suzuki, the Japanese businessman credited with creating the 7-Eleven convenience-chain global retail empire, has died. He was 93.

Toshifumi Suzuki

Suzuki, an honorary adviser at Seven & i Holdings, died on May 18 of heart failure at his Tokyo home, the company said Monday.

Suzuki founded the Japanese unit that operates the seemingly ubiquitous 7-Eleven "conbini" outlets, where busy people can hop in and grab sandwiches, rice balls, drinks, chips and other meals on-the-run, use ATMs, pay utility bills and copy documents.

The 7-Eleven stores, now numbering more than 80,000 worldwide, are the biggest convenience-store chain in Japan.

The business started out in Japan under a franchise agreement with the United States 7-Eleven in 1973. The first store opened in Japan the following year.

After The Southland Corp, which founded 7-Eleven, ran into financial difficulties the Japanese company bought a majority stake in the 1990's.

It made the American counterpart its 100 per cent owned group company in 2005.

Trump links normalising ties with Israel to Iran peace deal

US president urges regional nations to join Israel normalisation pact

WASHINGTON, REUTERS

US President Donald Trump said on Monday that he had asked countries including Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Egypt, Jordan and Turkey to join the Abraham Accords en masse to normalise relations with Israel as he seeks to negotiate an agreement to end the war with Iran.

Trump said he spoke on Saturday with the leaders of those countries, as well as the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, which have already signed the accords, a set of agreements to normalise relations with Israel.

"I am mandatorily requesting that all countries immediately sign the Abraham Accords, and that, if Iran signs its agreement with me, as President of the US, it would be an honour to have them also be part of this unparalleled world coalition," Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social. He cited "all the work done by the United States to try and pull this very complex puzzle together".

Trump said the countries involved would be honoured to have Iran as part of the accords once a deal to end the war is reached.

Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdullatif Al Zayani, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, US President Donald Trump and United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed participate in the signing of the Abraham Accords in Washington DC. REUTERS FILE

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Trump's post. The other countries cited by Trump also did not immediately respond.

Trump said one or two of the countries he spoke with might have reasons not to join, but most should be "ready, willing, and able to make this settlement with Iran a far more historic event than it would otherwise be".

Trump also said negotiations with Iran were "proceeding nicely" but gave no indication that a deal was imminent. Longtime Trump ally Senator Lindsey Graham has embraced the idea of linking an Iran deal to expanding the Abraham Accords as "beyond transformative for the region and world".

Others see the strategy as an attempt to make an Iran deal more palatable to sceptics.

"Trump is trying to sell an Iran deal as an Abraham Accords sequel: good for Israel, good for the region, tough enough for Washington," said Ali Vaez, Iran project director at the International Crisis Group. "But he is trading one fantasy for another—from forcing Iran to surrender to pretending a fragile deal can anchor a new West Asia order."

Trump has repeatedly said he wants to expand the accords that he brokered during his first term in the White House.

The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain signed the accords during Trump's first term in 2020, breaking a longstanding taboo to become the first Arab states to recognise Israel in a quarter century. Morocco and Sudan later followed suit.

Trump had been upbeat about the prospects of regional heavyweight Saudi Arabia joining the accords after a ceasefire took effect in Gaza last year, but Riyadh has shown no willingness to move ahead. Egypt and Jordan have already established relations with Israel.

OPENING UP

- Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian has issued an order to reopen international internet access after a near-90-day blackout in the wake of the war against US and Israel.
- A high-level Iranian delegation that includes the country's top negotiator and central bank chief were in Doha on Monday to discuss an agreement with the US and the release of frozen funds.

Iran to open Hormuz 30 days after deal: Report

REUTERS: The US and Iran are discussing a plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz about 30 days after the two countries reach a deal to end hostilities, the Nikkei newspaper reported on Monday, citing a West Asia diplomatic source.

Under the proposed arrangement, Iran would begin clearing mines from the strait during a 30-day period following an agreement.

After that, ships from all countries would be able to navigate the waterway freely and safely, while Iran would stop collecting transit fees, Nikkei reported.

WHO warns of Ebola threat beyond DR Congo

GENEVA, AFP

Countries neighbouring the Democratic Republic of Congo are at high risk from Ebola and should act immediately to contain the deadly virus, World Health Organisation chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Monday.

"Countries bordering DR Congo are at especially high risk and should take immediate action," Tedros said, adding that he would travel on Tuesday to the vast central African nation, which is at the epicentre of the current outbreak. "The outbreak is spreading rapidly," Tedros told a virtual ministerial meeting on the viral haemorrhagic fever, which spreads through direct contact with bodily fluids and can cause severe bleeding and organ failure.

He said the outbreak was "especially challenging". "First, the delay in detecting the outbreak means that we are now playing catch-up with a very fast-moving epidemic. We are urgently scaling up operations but, at the moment, the epidemic is outpacing us," he said.

China to step up security cooperation with Pakistan

Chinese leader backs Islamabad's mediation efforts in West Asia

NEW DELHI, DHNS

China on Monday moved to strengthen security ties with Pakistan to jointly ensure peace and stability in the region, even as Beijing recently acknowledged providing on-site technical support to the armed forces of its "all-weather friend" during Pakistan's cross-border military flare-up with India in May 2025.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Beijing on Monday. REUTERS

XI JINPING
Chinese president

"China firmly supports Pakistan in safeguarding its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

SHEHBAZ SHARIF
Pakistan prime minister

"Pakistan will always be China's good friend and good partner.

Beijing also praised Islamabad's role in efforts to end the West Asia conflict. Chinese President Xi Jinping hosted Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir in Beijing a day before India hosts a meeting of Quad foreign ministers, with the grouping widely seen as aimed at countering China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

"China firmly supports Pakistan in safeguarding its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity," Xi told Sharif. "The two sides should conduct security cooperation even better and in broader areas and jointly safeguard regional peace and stability," he was quoted as saying by China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"Pakistan will always be China's good friend and good partner," Sharif told Xi, while pledging to advance the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) so that bilateral ties would continue to grow and benefit the people of both nations. New Delhi has consistently opposed the CPEC, saying it violates India's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The 3,000-km connectivity project, a flagship component of China's Belt and Road Initiative, links China's Xinjiang Autonomous Region with the port city of Gwadar in southern Pakistan. Parts of the corridor pass through territory in Jammu and Kashmir that India says is under illegal occupation by Pakistan.

China has pledged to invest $65 billion in infrastructure projects linked to the CPEC, including projects in Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

Russia urges foreigners to leave Ukraine capital

MOSCOW, AFP: Russia said on Monday it would launch more strikes on Kyiv, including on its "decision-making centres", and repeated calls for foreign citizens and diplomats to leave the city.

Russia launched scores of drones and missiles at Ukraine over the weekend, killing four people, wounding dozens and causing damage across the Ukrainian capital. Among the weapons Russia used was its Oreshnik hypersonic missile, which Moscow says can travel 10 times the speed of sound.

The barrage came days after Russia accused Kyiv of striking a vocational school in the Russian-occupied Lugansk region, killing 21 people. Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the military to retaliate for that attack. "Under the current circumstances, the Russian Armed Forces are starting to launch systematic strikes against Ukrainian military-industrial facilities in Kyiv," Russia's foreign ministry said.

"The strikes will target both decision-making centres and command posts... We are warning foreign citizens, including personnel of diplomatic missions and international organisations, to leave the city as soon as possible," it added.

Pope Leo calls for 'disarming' AI in landmark manifesto

VATICAN CITY, AFP: Pope Leo XIV on Monday called for the "disarming" of artificial intelligence in his long-awaited manifesto on the rapidly developing technology, warning of "new forms of slavery" behind its rise.

Leo, the first US pope, warned against "a race for ever more powerful algorithms and larger datasets, driven by the desire to secure geopolitical or commercial dominance". He presented his first encyclical, "Magnifica Humanitas" (Magnificent Humanity), in person at the Vatican alongside AI experts including Christopher Olah, co-founder of US AI company Anthropic. Anthropic is embroiled in a legal battle with the US military after opposing the use of its technology for lethal autonomous warfare and mass surveillance.

At the presentation, Olah said AI companies operate "inside a set of incentives and constraints that can sometimes conflict with doing the right thing". He welcomed input from outside actors such as the Catholic Church to "push events in a better direction", saying that "the questions raised by AI are bigger than the AI research community".

Leo said he accepted Olah's invitation "to walk together, to listen and to speak and together to find the way for humanity". He expressed confidence that "together, we can discern the major questions of our time, and so, the future of humanity".

The pope said he had listened to scientists, engineers, political leaders, parents and teachers while preparing his manifesto, and had heard "very troubling voices" as well as "the silence of those who have no voice". AI must be "freed from logics that turn it into an instrument of domination, exclusion and death", he said.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Emergency personnel help a woman who was inside the Ginza 6 Shopping Center out of an emergency vehicle in Tokyo on Monday. AFP

Over 20 people hospitalised after substance sprayed in Tokyo

▸ More than 20 people developed sore throats near a luxury department store in Tokyo's upscale Ginza shopping district on Monday after a person allegedly sprayed an unknown substance, AP/PTI reports from Tokyo.

The Tokyo Fire Department said 26 people complained of suddenly developing throat pain and feeling unwell near the Ginza Six shopping complex. All but one were taken to hospital. Officials said their symptoms were believed to be mild. Fire department and police officials said an investigation was underway. The high-circulation Yomiuri newspaper reported that police had detected traces of pepper spray on a wall. Dozens of fire engines and ambulances were parked outside the complex, while surrounding roads were temporarily closed. Television footage showed firefighters and officials in hazmat suits assisting people, with some being brought out of the building. Yuzo Tsuda, a 78-year-old Tokyo resident, told The Associated Press that he walked towards the shopping complex after having lunch with friends, drawn by the commotion, when he suddenly felt pain in his throat and started coughing.

India gives 134 police cabs to SL

▸ India on Monday handed over 134 police cabs to Sri Lanka during a ceremony held at the Presidential Estate, marking another significant chapter in the "multifaceted development partnership" between the two countries, PTI reports from Colombo.

A Memorandum of Understanding for the deal was signed in December 2024 during Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's state visit to New Delhi. "Handed over a fleet of 134 single cabs, funded through a grant of SLR 300 million, to @SL_PoliceMedia in the gracious presence of President @anuradisanayake," Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha said in a social media post.

Demonstrators clash with anti-riot police during a rally against President Rodrigo Paz in La Paz on Monday. Paz's presidency has been rocked by protests leading to food, fuel and medicine shortages. AFP

Laos cave rescue efforts go on

▸ Rescuers are racing against time to reach seven people trapped in a cave in central Laos since last week, AP/PTI reports from Bangkok.

A group of villagers in Xaisomboun province entered the cave to search for gold on May 19, but heavy rain triggered flash flooding that blocked the exit, according to Lao and Thai rescue teams involved in the operation. Bounkham Luanglath, who leads the Laos Rescue Volunteer for People, told The Associated Press on Monday that one member of the group escaped before the exit was blocked and alerted authorities. The condition of the seven trapped people remains unknown. He said the cave is a narrow chamber frequently visited by villagers searching for gold deposits.

Millions begin Haj pilgrimage

▸ The annual Haj pilgrimage, one of the Five Pillars of Islam, officially began on Monday, AP/PTI reports from Mecca.

More than 1.5 million pilgrims have arrived in Saudi Arabia from outside the country, Saleh bin Saad Al-Murabba, commander of the Haj passport forces, said on Friday. The faithful have been pouring into the country for the Haj against the backdrop of a tenuous ceasefire in the Iran war and wider regional tensions and uncertainty.

Typically, on the first day, many pilgrims in Mecca converge on a vast tent camp in the nearby desert. Ahead of that, pilgrims have been circling the cube-shaped Kaaba in the Grand Mosque in sweltering temperatures.

People displaced by conflict protest a severe water shortage in the Khan Yunis region of the Gaza Strip on Monday. AFP

S. E. RAILWAY E– TENDER

Tender Notice No. PCMM/GENL/TP/2026/20 **Dated: 22/05/2026**

The Principal Chief Materials Manager, South Eastern Railway, Hd. Qrs. Office (5th Floor), New administrative Building, 11, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700043 for and on behalf of the President of India invites open E-tenders which have been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** as follows. All the tenders will be Closed at 14.00 hrs.

SL. No.	Tender No.	Closing Date	Brief Description	Qty.	EMD (in Rs.)
1	77261755	11/06/26	Set of Fluoropolymer Paints consisting of 02 items etc.	900 Set.	1,01,960/-
2	SERKGPW-TDAK-26-27	15/06/26	Fixed Remuneration per month for Attendant including GST.	288 Man Month.	2,03,600/-
			Statutory EPF including GST.	288 Man Month.	
			Service Charges.	288 Man Month.	
3	GEM/2026/B/7561685	19/06/26	Aerial Bunched Cable For Working Voltage etc.	65000 Mtr.	1,81,020/-
4	46253097B	24/06/26	Motor Protection Circuit Breaker (MPCB) etc.	3031 Nos.	1,17,170/-
5	45261632	30/06/26	SUPPLY OF 90 AH LOW MAINTENANCE LEAD ACID BATTERY etc.	47 Set.	1,16,760/-
6	75261790A	23/06/26	FLEXIBLE POLY VINYL CHLORIDE (PVC) FLOORING SHEET etc.	3356 Nos.	11,72,080/-
7	38263129	12/06/26	Kit for Dirt Collector consisting of 3 items in a set.	130718 Set.	84,740/-
8	38261563	17/06/26	Distributor valve (C.I. Version for freight application).	1229 Nos.	6,36,280/-
9	38261535	19/06/26	POH Kit 'B' for High Tensile CBC Draft Gear type RF-361.	850 Set.	5,21,560/-
10	38264079	24/06/26	Constant Contact side Bearer Assembly (Spring loaded type) Variant 'C'.	4755 Nos.	6,94,180/-
11	38263898	24/06/26	Slack adjuster Type IRSA-600 complete.	1850 Nos.	3,28,280/-
12	38263959	24/06/26	New Doorway Stiffening Cross Bar for BOXN Wagon.	14460 Nos.	5,63,080/-
13	38261575B	02/07/26	Flap Door Assembly (Modified) for BOXN Wagon.	20000 Nos.	14,98,790/-
14	38263884	01/07/26	Hand Brake Cable for KNORR BREMSE Design BMBS.	3540 Nos.	3,92,660/-
15	38264042A	01/07/26	Set of Nested Snubber spring Outer & Inner for LWLH 25T Bogie.	1153 Set.	1,18,370/-
16	38264045	06/07/26	Low torque grease seal for upgraded class "E" (6"x11") CTRB.	120000 Nos.	12,99,890/-
17	38263903	06/07/26	Adapter (Narrow Jaw), Class 'E',(6" x 11").	102815 Nos.	20,00,000/-
18	38261517	10/07/26	Side frame Key for cartridge roller bearing (for Narrow Jaw & Wide Jaw).	307662 Nos.	8,09,590/-
19	38261524	10/07/26	Constant Contact Polyurethane Side Bearer Assembly (Design-B.	3030 Nos.	6,46,720/-
20	38261564	10/07/26	Modified Elastomeric Pad, Design-A for CASNUB Bogie.	156900 Nos.	20,00,000/-
21	GEM/2026/B/7518934	01/06/26	Supply and Installation of different types of Furniture etc.	01 Set.	2,57,000/-
22	33263239	10/08/26	Emergency Lighting System for EOG type etc.	1870 Nos.	214040/-
23	33263254	07/07/26	High Capacity Inter Vehicle Coupler etc.	350 Nos.	1672230/-
24	33261513A	22/06/26	Bogie Frame Assembly for Coil Spring etc.	27 Nos.	188620/-
25	31261481	22/06/26	NON-ASBESTOS BASED "K" TYPE HIGH FRICTION etc.	94885 Nos.	716580/-
26	30261428	20/07/26	Water Tank Assembly (455 litres) etc.	390 Nos.	361720/-
27	30261434	13/07/26	Kit for Brake gear Bushes for BMBC coach etc.	770 Set.	155370/-
28	33263222	29/05/26	Set of Bite type Fittings for LHB coaches etc.	260 Set.	242070/-

Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full Details/Description/ Specification of the tenders and submit their Bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **N.B:** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders & any Corrigendum published thereafter. **(PR- 220)**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 02/2027/SBC Date : 19.05.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

SN	Tender No.	Description in brief (E-open Tender)	Qty.	Unit
1	L8265651	Supply, Installation and commissioning of Compressed air pipeline.	1	Set

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 10.30 hrs on 16.06.2026**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Material Maneger, Bengaluru

PUB/144/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. BE-29-2026-27-OT-02 (through E-Tendering)

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

SN	Tender No.	Description of work	Approx. Value
1	BE-29-2026-27-OT-02	1) Provision of BEE 5 star rated air conditioning units in place of old conventional AC units on age basis and provision of BEE 5 star rated geysers in place of old non BEE 5 star rated geysers on age cum condition basis over Bengaluru division 2) Provision of standby pumps over major GLRs of Bengaluru division **Period of Comp. (Month) : 08 Months**	Rs. 1,02,70,867/-

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 hrs on 12.06.2026**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ General/, Bengaluru

PUB/146/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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Biz Bytes

Paytm arm to invest in subsidiary

NEW DELHI, PTI: Fintech firm One 97 Communications, which operates under the Paytm brand, on Monday said its wholly-owned subsidiary Paytm Cloud Technologies will invest 9 million euro in its European payment entity. "... The Board of Directors of PCTL (Paytm Cloud Technologies Limited)... has approved an additional investment by way of subscription to 9 million equity shares of EUR 1 (one euro only) each at a total consideration of EUR 9 million (nine million euro), in its wholly-owned subsidiary, Paytm Europe Payments S.A (Paytm Europe)," the company said.

Shriram Properties Q4 profit rises 65%

NEW DELHI, PTI: Shriram Properties Ltd on Monday reported 65% increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 78.53 crore for the quarter ended March 31 on higher income amid strong housing demand. Its net profit was Rs 47.66 crore in the year-ago period.

Total income rose to Rs 662.73 crore during the fourth quarter of 2025-26 from Rs 427.51 crore a year ago, according to a filing. During the full 2025-26 fiscal, the company's net profit rose to Rs 100.81 crore from Rs 77.3 crore, a year ago.

Suzlon net profit dips over 5% to Rs 1,114 cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: Suzlon Energy on Monday reported a 5.6% decline in its consolidated net profit to Rs 1,114 crore in the March quarter of FY26, mainly due to lesser benefit of deferred tax credit.

The consolidated net profit of the company stood at Rs 1,181 crore in the quarter ended March 2025, Suzlon Energy said in a statement.

However, revenue from operations rose to Rs 5,468 crore in the latest fourth quarter from Rs 3,774 crore in the same period a year ago.

Fuel, fertiliser & gold creating challenges externally: FM

Says domestic economic situation positive, resilient

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said the West Asia crisis is exerting pressure on India's foreign exchange due to higher outgo on fuel, fertiliser and gold imports.

"The West Asia crisis is not only a diplomatic or geopolitical issue. For businesses and common people, it can mean higher fuel cost, delayed cargo, costlier shipping, shortage of inputs, pressure on working capital and uncertainty in export orders," the finance minister said at the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) foundation day event in Mumbai.

While underlining the challenges on the external front due to the West Asia conflict, Sitharaman claimed that India's domestic economic situation remains positive and resilient.

She accused the Opposition leaders of fear-mongering and creating a "cynical narrative" about the Indian economy. She emphasised that such a narrative is wrong and would hurt the economy. "India cannot afford fear-mongering," she added.

Amid the ongoing West Asia conflict, Sitharaman called for sharper focus on what she termed the three "Fs" — fuel, fertiliser, and foreign exchange.

"We should please understand the context of these three Fs: fuel, fertiliser, and foreign exchange. And the foreign exchange is for, in this context, purchase of gold. So, we need to understand this and we also should appreciate that the challenges are more external-driven," she said.

"We must also recognise that India's domestic economic situation remains positive and resilient even today," she added.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent appeal to conserve foreign exchange reserves, Sitharaman said it should be seen in the context of managing external economic stress.

On fuel price hike, she said that due to the reduced excise duty, the government revenues could take a hit of about Rs 1 lakh crore in the current fiscal.

The FM's comment came after oil marketing companies hiked retail prices of petrol and diesel for the fourth time in 10 days on Monday. Petrol price was hiked by Rs 2.61 per litre and diesel by Rs 2.71 per litre, taking the cumulative increase in 10 days to Rs 7.5 a litre.

The minister claimed that the government's approach is focused on protecting citizens, supporting MSEMs, safeguarding exporters and keeping supply chains moving and maintaining economic stability.

She acknowledged that the over 80-day-long West Asia conflict has made future planning difficult for MSMEs and exporters.

India turns to LatAm, African oil

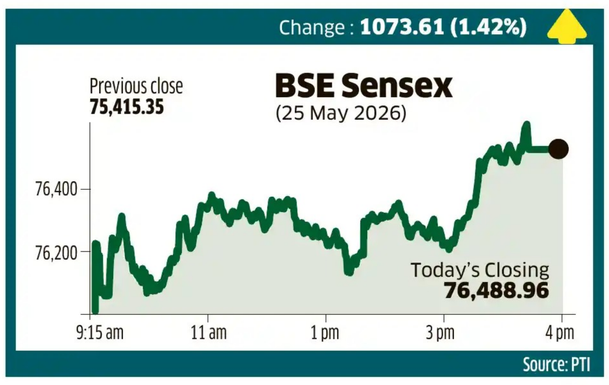
NEW DELHI, REUTERS: Indian refiners turned to imports from Latin America and Africa after supplies from West Asia were disrupted as the Israeli-US war on Iran restricted shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, data provided by trade sources show.

Refiners in the world's third-largest oil importer and consumer bought most of their crude from nearby West Asia until the war broke out at the end of February.

In April and May, Indian refiners raised imports from Venezuela, Brazil, Angola and Nigeria to make up the shortfall, as well as continuing to buy Russian oil, preliminary data from Kpler show.

Last month, India skipped purchases from Iraq as exports were halted, while it received Iranian oil after a gap of seven years, following a temporary waiver granted by Washington to help stabilise global oil prices.

> "The West Asia crisis is not only a diplomatic or geopolitical issue. For businesses and common people, it can mean higher fuel cost, delayed cargo, costlier shipping, shortage of inputs, pressure on working capital and uncertainty in export orders.
>
> **Nirmala Sitharaman,** Union Finance Minister



Bourses jump over 1% as crude drops below $100/barrel

MUMBAI, PTI: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty surged over 1% on Monday, driven by a sharp correction in crude oil prices and a rally in global markets amid improving sentiment surrounding the US-Iran negotiations.

An appreciating rupee against the US dollar and intense buying in banking and financial stocks also bolstered sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,073.61 points, or 1.42%, to settle at 76,488.96. During the day, it soared 1,143.72 points, or 1.51%, to 76,559.07. A total of 2,785 stocks advanced, while 1,535 declined and 211 remained unchanged on the BSE. The 50-share NSE Nifty surged 312.40 points, or 1.32%, to end at 24,031.70.

"Sentiment was primarily driven by optimism surrounding a potential US-Iran peace agreement, which triggered a sharp correction in crude oil prices. Brent crude slipped below the $100 per barrel mark for the first time in over two weeks and gradually inched toward the $95 level.

"Additionally, the outperformance of private banking majors, supportive earnings announcements, and the rupee's further strengthening against the US dollar aided the recovery," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro, HDFC Bank, Eternal, Bajaj Finserv, and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the biggest winners. In contrast, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Sun Pharma and Hindustan Unilever were the laggards.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, tanked 5.52% to $97.82 per barrel.

Conflict may erode India Inc profitability by 200 bps: Crisil

Ceramic industry expected to face the sharpest impact

BENGALURU, DHNS

Prolonged geopolitical tensions in West Asia could shave nearly 200 basis points off the profitability of Indian companies this fiscal, even as strong balance sheets and steady domestic demand are expected to help corporate India withstand the pressure, according to a stress test conducted by Crisil.

The ratings agency analysed 34 sectors accounting for nearly 65% of its rated corporate debt exposure and assessed the impact of an extended conflict scenario involving nine months of supply-chain disruptions and average crude oil prices of $110 per barrel during the current fiscal.

Crisil said operating profitability across India Inc could decline from the pre-conflict expectation of around 12%, with 22 of the 34 sectors likely to witness a more than 10% erosion in margins due to elevated fuel, freight and inventory costs. Companies are also grappling with a depreciating rupee and delays in passing on higher input costs to consumers.

"Managing costs and profitability will be a bigger challenge than achieving topline growth," said Subodh Rai, Managing Director, Crisil Ratings. He added that only eight sectors, accounting for about 10% of rated corporate debt, are expected to see a material deterioration in credit quality because of strong balance sheets and resilient domestic demand.

Among the worst-hit sectors, the ceramic industry is expected to face the sharpest impact due to gas shortages and supply disruptions, with revenue potentially falling by one-third and profitability by half. The airline sector could also witness a steep hit to profitability owing to airspace closures, higher aviation fuel prices and rupee depreciation. Other sectors under pressure include polyester textiles, specialty chemicals, flexible packaging, auto components, diamond polishing and basmati rice exports.

However, Crisil noted that Indian corporates are entering this phase with stronger financial metrics than a decade ago. Median gearing has halved to about 0.5 times, while interest coverage has more than doubled to over five times as of March 2026.

People watch vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, visible near the beach of Bandar Abbas, Iran. REUTERS

Senior executives of Toyota Kirloskar Motor sign an agreement with the state government, in the presence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Industries Minister M B Patil in Bengaluru on Monday.

Toyota to invest Rs 1,200 crore on BizIntel Hub

BENGALURU, DHNS

Toyota Kirloskar Motor on Monday signed an agreement with the state government for setting up its 'BizIntel Hub' at KWIN City, with an investment of Rs 1,200 crore.

Toyota's COO and Director of Special Projects, Sudeep Dalvi, and S Selvakumar, Principal Secretary, Department of Industries, Government of Karnataka, signed and exchanged the agreement in the presence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Industries Minister MB Patil.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister assured full support to the company and said he was delighted to learn that this would be the first facility of its kind in the world.

Patil said this was the first major investment to materialise in KWIN City. The company will invest Rs 1,200 crore as initial capital over the next five years, generating around 200 jobs. About 300 acres of land will be allotted to Toyota for the project. Vehicle manufacturing, testing activities and the establishment of an advanced automobile manufacturing facility will all be undertaken there.

He said the project would prove to be a major opportunity for the youth of the state.

He further said that innovation, healthcare and information technology would be given top priority in KWIN City. Seven to eight globally-reputed universities, healthcare institutions and research organisations have already expressed interest in investing there, and agreements with them too would be finalised at the earliest.

The KWIN City will be developed in phases across a total area of 5,800 acres, with the first phase of development already under progress.

Patil said the overall project is expected to attract investments worth Rs 48,000 crore and generate nearly one lakh jobs.

Rupee rises 34 paise to close at 95.26 against US dollar

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee appreciated 34 paise to close at 95.26 against the US dollar on Monday, registering the third straight session of gain, on optimism that the US and Iran were moving close to a peace deal even though they remained at odds over key issues, including blockades on the Strait of Hormuz.

Forex traders said the rupee registered its third straight session of gain after RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, in a media interaction, said that the central bank will do "whatever is required" to ensure orderly price discovery in the forex market.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.36 against the US dollar, then touched an intraday high of 95.12 and a low of 95.44 during the trade.

At the end of Monday's trading session, the rupee was quoted at 95.26, higher by 34 paise from its previous close.

On Friday, the rupee rose 75 paise to close at 95.60 against the US dollar.

According to traders, the rupee traded on a positive note after US President Donald Trump said the US and Iran have "largely negotiated" a peace pact to end the nearly three-month war, asserting that he has told the negotiators "not to rush into a deal" and that "both sides must take their time and get it right."

Moreover, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said the US and India are on the verge of finalising an interim trade agreement.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.98, down 0.26%.

Meanwhile, forex reserves dropped $8.094 billion to $688.894 billion during the week ended May 15, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday.

Puravankara acquires 14.57-acre land in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: Puravankara Limited has secured a 14.57-acre land parcel in Mandur-Budigere, with a projected gross development value (GDV) of nearly Rs 2,300 crore, as the real estate developer continues to strengthen its residential pipeline in the city.

The project, spread across Bengaluru's fast-growing eastern corridor, will have a total saleable area of around 1.8 million square feet.

Of the total land parcel, 7.92 acres has been secured through a joint development agreement (JDA), while the remaining 6.65 acres has been purchased outright by the company.

Ashish Puravankara, Managing Director of Puravankara Limited, said the acquisition aligns with the company's strategy of adding high-quality projects in key micro-markets through a disciplined growth approach.

He added that the latest deal has increased Puravankara's developable landbank in Bengaluru to 25.61 million square feet.

Tata Sons board to meet today; talk on loss-making cos likely

MUMBAI, PTI: The board of Tata Sons will meet on Tuesday, and discussions on the diversified group's loss-making companies are likely to come up, sources said on Monday.

However, sources made it clear that any discussion on Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran's reappointment is unlikely at the board meeting, which comes amid rising frictions within the group.

Individual companies, especially those currently loss-making, are likely to make a presentation on the state of their business and the way ahead, a source said.

N Chandrasekaran

Chandrasekaran and Tata Trusts Chairman Noel Tata, who is a nominee director on the Tata Sons board, are understood to have met over the weekend to discuss the same matter on the performance of the companies.

In FY25, Tata Group's unlisted businesses posted a loss of Rs 10,905 crore, which is likely to go up to Rs 29,000 crore, according to reports.

It can be noted that the Tata Group, which includes the Tata Trusts owning two-thirds of Tata Sons, the holding company of the group, has seen a lot of top-level friction lately, which has included expulsions or attempts to expel some members and also a deferment on Chandrasekaran's continuation as the chairman of Tata Sons.

As per reports, Noel is concerned over mounting losses at Tata Sons, especially the ones by new businesses, which were started under the helm of Chandrasekaran, like Tata Digital and the electronics ventures, and also the financially-struggling carrier Air India.

Noel is also reluctant to take Tata Sons public through an IPO. At present, Tata Sons, a core investment company, has been classified as among the top-15 NBFCs by the RBI, which are mandated to list.

TALENT SEARCH

Global firms rethink GCC hiring in India as AI shifts skill demand

BENGALURU, REUTERS

Global companies in India are becoming more selective in their hiring as AI reshapes roles, intensifying a crunch for talent with advanced tech skills.

Heads of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and senior executives at multinationals told *Reuters* that while hiring continues, finding candidates with the right mix of technical expertise and adaptability was becoming increasingly difficult.

"I think the colour for every job and role will change... The biggest challenge is to get the right talent with the right AI skill," said Puneet Chandok, President of Microsoft India and South Asia.

India is expected to house 2,117 global centers by the end of FY2026 — about 500 more than in 2021 — employing 2.36 million people and generating roughly $100 billion in revenue, according to a report by Nasscom and Zinnov earlier this month.

The pace of growth in GCCs has largely hinged on the country's vast pool of skilled workers and relatively-low operating costs. However, as AI and automation become central to business operations, companies are seeking more specialised talent across industries. "There's a lot of need around niche talents in the space of AI, cybersecurity...," Radhakrishnan Kodakkal, head of Daimler Truck Innovation Center India, said. "It is difficult to find the right (talent)... it is challenging, and that also, in a way, leads to competitiveness of those talents."

Catalyst Brands' India MD Nihar Nidhi also highlighted the challenges in finding the right talent. "It's not easy to attract that talent in the market at this time, especially if you're looking at advanced capabilities," Nidhi said.

All of this has slowed hiring in GCCs, said Lalit Ahuja, CEO and Founder of ANSR, which helps firms build and run global centres. "Companies are hiring fewer people, just as a matter of abundant caution." The shift towards niche skills has upended early-career hiring, with executives saying that traditional entry-level roles could shrink as AI takes over routine tasks.

A joint report by Nasscom and Indeed showed that 40% of employers prefer demonstrable AI skills or certifications over degrees, while another 32% give equal weight to skills, certifications and degrees.

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Vaikunta Samaradhane

C. Leelavathy Narayana
(W/o Late Dr. R.Narayana)
Vaikunta Samaradhane
on Wednesday,
27th May, 2026
at 193, 7th Main Road,
4th Block Jayanagar,
Bengaluru.
Rajaram, Vrinda, Tarakaram

SAD DEMISE

Smt. Sudha Krishnaswamy
02/05/1941 - 25/05/2026
Founder Member and Vice President of Karnataka Arya Ediga Mahila Sangha(KAEMS).
Vice-President of Karnataka Pradesha Arya Ediga Sangha (2011-12 to 2015-16)
Mortal remains will be kept at her residence from now till 1PM on 26/05/2026 (Tuesday).
Residence Location :
https://maps.app.goo.gl/DiHTeofE8SW7D9NeA
Cremation at Wilson Garden Crematorium at 1:30-2:30 PM on 26/05/2026 (Tuesday).
Deeply mourned by:
Family Members

First Year Remembrance

Rtn. PHF DANDA PARTHASARATHY
16.06.1938 - 26.05.2025
A pillar of strength and an inspiration to all, his wisdom guided generations, and his quiet generosity touched countless lives.
He will forever remain in our hearts
Grieving Family Members
The Modern India Trading Co.
Vijayalakshmi Talkies
Achaiah Chetty Arcade

What matters more in career: Content or contacts?

PAVAN SONI

For the longest time, it was believed that 'who' you know matters more than 'what' you know. To paraphrase: A good lawyer knows the law, but a great lawyer knows the judge. Your network could get you to places because, in the absence of formal institutions and prohibitive transaction costs, personal ties and social alliances made the difference between relevance and obscurity.

People doubled down on expanding their contacts, offering currency in exchange for networking events, agencies, clubs and rituals. If one were to make a choice, contacts triumphed content, hands down. But is it so today? Let's see what has changed.

The advent of pervasive, highly affordable means of communication and transportation, coupled with easy access to information and the widening of the opportunity base, has resulted in rapidly declining search and transaction costs. The emergence of formal rules of engagement and emboldened economic institutions has enabled many more people to participate in value creation. This puts a premium on specialisation and on developing and retaining content.

Let's take an example. In the heyday, if I were a carpenter, my market discoverability would be limited unless I also published myself as a plumber, electrician, mason, painter, and interior designer, all rolled into one. I would rather have multiple tentacles to increase my searchability — hoping that something would click. But in today's world of the Internet and smart devices, what will increase my market value?

On the demand side, I would search for the best carpenter in town, rather than settle for the one who is also a carpenter. The premium of specialisation pays off owing to the marginalisation of search and transaction costs. This leads to the emergence of specialists — because somebody else, or rather something else, has taken care of your contacts.

Across fields, whether it be sports, as seen in the IPL, teeming with talent from tier-2 cities and towns, to open source development forums, where top contributors are mostly individuals labouring at their own accord, what you have are dwarfs who you know. In chess, the eight-year-old Tamizh Amudhan from Sivakasi beats World No. 7 Vincent Keymer in an online blitz tournament. All he had was his Internet connection, powered by a mobile hotspot in a darkened room, and a brain brimming with ideas. No contacts, only content.

The tale of Indian Chess Grandmasters is that of content over contacts, because one can learn the game through pretty much any means, play from pretty much anywhere, and defeat anyone. This was not possible in the 90s — one had to be in the right place, with the right people, blessed with the appropriate patronage, coached in the legitimate schools of chess, to get a fighting chance.

Nowadays, chess players are demolishing pieces right out of their bunkers in war-struck Ukraine. The top programmers in the world come from Siberia, Poland, and Hungary — places that are not exactly the hotspots of technological revolution. Linux was written by a single person, Linus Torvald, sitting in his dorm in Helsinki, with a cat for company. So much for being 'connected'.

If you have enough content, contacts will follow. If you don't have content, your contacts will disown you in no time. Your content is like the fragrance that attracts people. As long as you keep your content fresh and relevant, by constantly investing in yourself, you won't have to chase people; they will rather sniff you out.

So, when you visit conferences and are busy shaking hands and dishing out cards, bear in mind that people do not remember your card; they remember 'you'. Instead of maximising reach, focus on having one or two deep, meaningful conversations, and you will return wealthier.

Neither content nor contacts come cheap; they both require considerable and consistent efforts. The critical distinction, however, is that contacts you share, while content you own.

When you leave an organisation, what do you carry with you — content or contacts? You may argue that you carry both (which is not really the case). Your contacts are valid till you can dish out something meaningful to them, something asymmetric.

Otherwise, over time, if the contacts do not see the goods, they will lose interest. As you leave a firm, you carry the content, and this might, in time, revise your contacts.

Casting the question back to your career: Do not chase people, chase excellence. If you are great at your craft and honest in your approach, the appropriate people will discover you. Content is indeed the king, and even more so in a connected world.

As for the content, it is not just knowledge but contextual knowledge. It is the knowledge that works, solves problems, and moves the world. Everything else is a flux.

A language crisis in education

India's communication crisis is also an educational crisis, writes Aruna Parandhama

AI-GENERATED IMAGE, FOR REFERENCE ONLY

India was recently left with two words to ponder: "parasites" and "cockroaches". The clipped excerpts from Supreme Court Justice Surya Kant's speech sparked a range of reactions. Though the judge clarified that the comments were meant for "people with degrees" who use fake credentials to "try to infiltrate professional systems", many social media users took a different reading of the judge's comments.

This is not a unique situation. A remark by Shashi Tharoor in 2009, calling economy-class service "cattle class," drew considerable criticism for being a cynical jab at the political motives behind austerity and for being highly classist and insulting. Comedian and presenter Vir Das's 'Two Indias' act was seen by some as a slice of democracy, while others felt it was an international embarrassment for the country. Hillary Clinton botched her campaign when she publicly labelled half of Trump's voters a 'basket of deplorables' during the 2016 presidential election.

These are important not just because they caused the ripples they did, but also because they raise three underlying issues in communication in today's India.

The first is that language is beyond institutional control once it enters the digital sphere. Second, the intention no longer leads to the interpretation. The third and most serious is that the public reception becomes the sole "real" meaning of the original content.

Public speech is a reality in the current fragmented interpretive communities. As long as the context of the recipient, clipping, and dissemination of the sentence changes, it can be used as a piece of satire, patriotism, insult, criticism, or propaganda. Communication failures today stem from the complexity of each communication, which is presented to the public as emotionally charged and context-free, repackaged by algorithms.

Language in academics

The ecology of language has been transformed by digital culture, which has removed the barriers between informal and institutional modes of expression. From the courtroom to the classroom, from a political joke to the sarcastic tweet, a single observation can now carry like wildfire at the speed of outrage. The meaning is increasingly defined by circulation rather than by speakers. Therefore, India's communication crisis is also an educational crisis.

Communication in India has, for decades, been accorded a technical status— fluency, grammar, pronunciation, and employability. In most of the schools, however, the teaching of English is stagnant, and it is still characterised by excessive traditional teaching content, which is still dominated by the teaching of prose, poetry and drama and is out of place in students' real communication life. This is simply not sufficient anymore.

India is a multilingual democracy struggling to address political polarisation, algorithmic misinformation, meme culture, video-cut discourse, and an increasingly virile online public. Universities continue to invest in STEM and management education. They continue to produce professionals with certifications and qualifications, but with little training in interpreting particular contexts or communicating ethically in a fair language.

The urgent issue in Indian higher education is not how well the students can speak English. The question we should ask: Can institutions make a difference in the development of citizens, judges, educators, bureaucrats, media, and political leaders who understand the ethical consequences of public language in a hyperconnected democracy?

The remedy

There has to be a media literacy requirement at the heart of citizenship learning. It should involve understanding literal versus implied meaning; identifying satire, irony, and rhetorical framing; reading statements in full context, not just viral fragments, to recognise misinformation from disinformation; and analysing meme cultures and outrage economies, as well as understanding how algorithms can exacerbate conflicts and emotional reactions. It should also sensitise everyone to the language they use when criticising what they dislike.

It is something which humanities educators are best positioned to do. The humanities are not 'soft' subjects: at this moment, they may be the last vestiges of academia where students can be trained to become responsible citizens by teaching the nuances of reading a full text, how to disagree respectfully, how to tell apart misinformation from disinformation, and how to verify misinformation.

The row over Justice Surya Kant's comment reveals how fragile the communication is in today's India, where language is always instantaneous, permanent, weaponised and infinitely reproducible. But if the education system is unaware of this, India risks producing generations that are professionally prepared but not communicatively prepared.

If universities continue to ignore this reality, the next national crisis may emerge from loose statements by those in power and from how millions choose to read them.

BULLETIN BOARD

Influencer marketing
Athletiquest LLP is hiring a remote influencer marketing intern. Students who can communicate effectively and have proficiency in spoken and written English, influencer marketing, networking, and social media marketing can apply by June 21. The stipend is Rs 6,000-10,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/024370.

Architecture
Afforestt Eco Services Private Limited is hiring a remote architecture intern. Students with knowledge of Adobe Photoshop, AutoCAD, Autodesk 3ds Max, Google SketchUp, and Lumion can apply by June 20. The stipend is Rs 15,000-30,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/4d4bb7.

Market research & outreach
Primenumbers Technologies is hiring a market research & outreach intern in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of data analysis, market research, and analytics, with effective communication, spoken and written English proficiency and fluency in Hindi are eligible to apply by June 30. The stipend is Rs 20,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/dce59b.

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ICSSR to fund research under Yuva Shodh Pratibha

The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) has launched the Yuva Shodh Pratibha Scheme (YSPS), a new national research initiative aimed at nurturing undergraduate researchers under the framework of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The inaugural research call for 2026–27 is centred on the theme "Youth and Decolonisation."

Designed specifically for students enrolled in four-year undergraduate programmes, the scheme seeks to encourage original research that rethinks inherited knowledge frameworks and promotes context-based inquiry rooted in Indian realities. The initiative emphasises interdisciplinary thinking, critical inquiry and the development of alternative research methodologies that challenge Eurocentric approaches to knowledge production.

The scheme will support at least 600 student-led research projects, with grants of up to Rs 3 lakh per project. A total research grant of Rs 18 crore is planned, and opportunities for collaborative and team-based research are available. Eight months to complete the approved project

Students currently enrolled in the third and fourth year of four-year degree programmes are invited to apply. Details: icssr.org / abpaliwal@icssr.org /08076916717

Teachers still needed in the AI era

SAHANA PRASAD

AI-GENERATED IMAGE, FOR REFERENCE ONLY

"I told you not to ask Gen AI but to study from your notes!" Nidhi frowns as her young daughter keys in a half-formed question — a partially written paragraph — into the computer. Before Nidhi can even take a breath, a step-by-step explanation pops up, which her daughter gleefully copies and pastes! This question is now being quietly asked, in classrooms, student groups, parents' WhatsApp groups, and a little hesitantly, in staff rooms and conferences." If a student can ask an AI tool anything and get a clear, structured answer in seconds, what exactly is a teacher for?

"AI doesn't ask why I have a 'silly doubt.' No eye-rolling, no tone. I can ask anything privately, even the night before exams, and get a structured answer," says Meghana S, an undergraduate student at a private university. "The question itself is flawed, it lies on the premise that teaching is primarily about delivering information", says Divya P, a commerce faculty. "AI is faster and often clearer than traditional methods. But learning is not only about access to information," she adds. "But knowing something is not the same as understanding it."

That gap is where teachers matter.

As Dr Hongray R V, Dr T Hongray, Dean of Student Affairs, R V University, puts it: "I strongly believe that for as long as humans are around, a mentor, teacher, guru, or some human in the loop will always be required. A distinction needs to be made between cold knowledge transfer — which requires less of a human teacher — and the provision of conceptual clarity, perspectives, and a critical thought process, which still requires a human teacher. They bring their life's worth of perspective and experience, which is hard to replace."

A good teacher is constantly reading the room — who hesitates, who nods too quickly, who suddenly looks lost, and adjusts in real time. They shift tone, pace, and even examples as they go. Sometimes, they even shift to the vernacular to make a concept land. When a concept is explained through something lived or observed, the lesson changes. Dr Hongray continues, "When a good, inspired teacher teaches, they are attuned to and very conscious of a student's facial expressions, which give them real feedback to adjust their delivery approach."

AI, for all its advantages, can't do this; it does not carry the memory of how a concept failed to land with one group and refine it for the next.

Experts agree that the most important aspect of learning is motivation. Students do not engage with subjects in a purely rational way. Interest, confidence, and even persistence are shaped by how a subject is experienced in the classroom.

Dr Hongray is very clear on this. "From the point of view of students, the motivation for learning is often an emotional decision that relies heavily on inspiring teachers. Most kids grew up loving science and mathematics, but that often morphs into fear and dread towards physics and mathematics by the time they're in high school. And one factor is oftentimes attributed to uninspiring teachers."

Deepa Fernandes, who is a counsellor at a Bengaluru-based polytechnic, sums it up, "Students who feel seen and supported tend to engage more deeply. The relationship itself becomes part of the learning process. A sense that someone is expecting effort and believes in the capacity of the students often determines whether a student persists or disengages."

A good teacher is an interpreter and mentor, someone who understands confusion from experience and can guide a student through it. Someone who shapes not just answers, but the way questions are asked.

Dr Baishali Garai, Programme Director for Basic Sciences at the School of Computer Science and Engineering, R V University, sums it up, "AI may deliver knowledge at scale, but it cannot replace the human spark that turns information into insight. In an age overflowing with data, teachers remain essential — not as transmitters of facts, but as guides of judgment, curiosity, and values. The future of education is not AI instead of teachers, but teachers empowered by AI — shaping minds, igniting purpose, and helping students become not just informed, but truly wise."

So, the real question is not whether teachers are necessary, but whether teaching is ready to become more human, not less.

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IN BRIEF

Sumiya stars in SAI STC win

▸ Shaik Sumiya scored five goals as SAI STC, Madikeri thrashed Evergreen Sports Academy, KGF 13-0 in the Hockey Karnataka women's under-16 tournament at the FMKMC Hockey Arena on Monday, reports DHNS.

Results: SAI STC, Madikeri: 13 (Shaik Sumiya 3rd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 34th, Sabitha A 10th, 15th, Greeshma Ponnappa 14th, Ragula Nagamani 17th, 37th, Boya Shruthi 29th, G Gnaneshwari 30th, Neelamma NR 40th) bt Evergreen Sports Academy, KGF: 0; St. Theresa Group of Institution, KGF: 1 (Bindhushree P 35th) bt Bengaluru Blues Hockey Club: 0.

Messi suffers injury scare

▸ Lionel Messi exited Inter Miami's Major League Soccer match against Philadelphia Union with an apparent leg injury on Sunday just weeks before the start of the World Cup, reports AFP from Miami.

Argentina superstar Messi was substituted in the 73rd minute after clutching the back of his left leg and requesting to come off.

The 38-year-old icon headed straight down the tunnel after exiting the game, which Miami went on to win 6-4.

Villarreal finish third

▸ Villarreal claimed third place in La Liga with an emphatic 5-1 win over Atletico Madrid, who finished fourth, in the final match of the Spanish season, reports AFP from Villareal.

It was Marcelino Garcia Toral's last in charge of the Yellow Submarine, and he guided them to a comfortable victory against an uninterested Atletico side.

Finishing third is Villarreal's highest placement in La Liga for 13 years.

TENNIS FRENCH OPEN

Swiatek, Rybakina march on

Djokovic overcomes hostile crowd, Wawrinka bids adieu to Roland Garros

PARIS, AFP

Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka acknowledges the crowd after his final appearance at the French Open in Paris on Monday. REUTERS

Four-time French Open champion Iga Swiatek and second seed Elena Rybakina eased into the second round with comfortable wins at a sweltering Roland Garros on Monday, as Stan Wawrinka bade an emotional farewell to the tournament.

Swiatek, playing at a Grand Slam event for the first time since linking up with Rafael Nadal's former coach Francisco Roig, made short work of seeing off Australian teenager Emerson Jones 6-1, 6-2 in just 60 minutes.

The Pole is looking to regain the trophy she won at Roland Garros in three successive years from 2022-24 before losing to Aryna Sabalenka in the semifinals 12 months ago.

Swiatek will take on Czech Sara Bejlek for a place in the last 32 on Wednesday.

The third seed is among the favourites for the title after finding some form by reaching the Italian Open semifinals earlier this month.

"I'm really happy with the way I played. It was a solid match from the beginning to the end. I technically knew how to play," said Swiatek.

Rybakina also wasted little time in swatting aside Slovenian Veronika Erjavec 6-2, 6-2 on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Elina Svitolina survived a serious scare against Hungary's Anna Bondar on Court Suzanne Lenglen, fighting back from 3-1 down in a deciding set to win 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (10/3).

Former runner-up Jasmine Paolini was a 7-5, 6-3 winner over Dayana Yastremska of Ukraine.

China's Zheng Qinwen, who won Olympic gold at Roland Garros two years ago, crashed out in the first round for the first time with a 6-4, 6-0 loss to Poland's Maja Chwalinska.

Wawrinka's final bow

Former champion Wawrinka's final Roland Garros ended in disappointment as the 41-year-old was beaten 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 by Dutch lucky loser Jesper de Jong.

Wawrinka, who beat Novak Djokovic in the 2015 final, is retiring at the end of the season.

After the match, Wawrinka was presented with a glass case containing a section of a clay court and two video tributes to his career were displayed on big screens around the stadium -- the latter featuring messages from former champions Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Djokovic.

"Thanks to all your support, I wanted to go on as long as possible, to 41 years of age, to continue living moments like this," Wawrinka said.

Spanish teenager Rafael Jodar enjoyed a winning French Open debut with a 6-1, 6-0, 6-4 dismantling of American Aleksandar Kovacevic.

Djokovic struggles

Novak Djokovic came back from a set down for a 5-7 7-5 6-1 6-4 victory over 22-year-old home player Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard in the first round of the French Open on Sunday in his record 82nd Grand Slam appearance.

"Obviously playing a French player, centre court at Roland Garros is never so easy. The crowd gets into it and then you feel the pressure even more," Djokovic said after the 2 hour, 51-minute encounter.

"But all in all it was a good match to be part of: Three hours, just what the doctor ordered at age 39."

Grunting during long rallies and digging deep on the opening night session on Court Philippe-Chatrier, it wasn't until 1 hour, 45 minutes in that Djokovic finally found a way to break his burly opponent.

French Open results

1st round: Seeded players only (Prefix denotes seedings):

Men: 22-Arthur Rinderknech (Fra) bt Jurij Rodionov (Aut) 7-6 (5), 6-2, 6-3; 19-Frances Tiafoe (USA) bt Eliot Spizzirri (USA) 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-3; 31-Brandon Nakashima (USA) bt Roberto Bautista Agut (Esp) 6-2, 7-5, 6-2; 8-Alex de Minaur (Aus) bt Toby Samuel (Gbr) 6-4, 6-4, 6-2; 27-Rafael Jodar (Esp) bt Aleksandar Kovacevic (USA) 6-1, 6-0, 6-4; Pablo Carreno Busta (Esp) bt 12-Jiri Lehecka (Cze) 6-3, 7-6 (3), 6-3; 32-Ugo Humbert (Fra) bt Adrian Mannarino (Fra) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Women: Susan Bandecchi (Sui) bt 31-Cristina Bucsa (Esp) 6-4, 2-6, 6-4; 28-Anastasia Potapova (Aut) bt Maya Joint (Aus) 6-1, 6-2; 23-Elise Mertens (Bel) bt Tatjana Maria (Ger) 7-5, 6-0; 6-Amanda Anisimova (USA) bt Tiantsoa Rakotomanga Rajaonah (Fra) 6-3, 6-1; 7-Elina Svitolina (Ukr) bt Anna Bondar (Hun) 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (3); 3-Iga Swiatek (Pol) bt Emerson Jones (Aus) 6-1, 6-2. Jil Teichmann (Sui) bt 20-Liudmila Samsonova (Rus) 6-4, 6-4; 13-Jasmine Paolini (Ita) bt Dayana Yastremska (Ukr) 7-5, 6-3.

Antonelli delivers another hit!

Mercedes teen bags Canadian GP for 4th straight victory

MONTREAL, AFP

Italian teenager Kimi Antonelli continued his spectacular early-season romp on Sunday when he claimed his fourth straight win for Mercedes to extend his lead in the drivers world championship to 43 points in a thrilling Canadian Grand Prix.

His win made him the first driver in F1 history to secure his first four wins in succession thanks, in part, to the retirement of team-mate George Russell with a power failure after the pair had battled through the first half of the race.

The 19-year-old Italian came home 10.768 seconds clear of Ferrari's seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton.

The Briton secured his tenth Canadian podium and the 204th of his career after resisting four-time champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull, who claimed his first podium of the season.

"It was a really fun battle with George," said Antonelli.

"We were pretty much on the limit. It was not easy today. It was a shame for George to have the failure because it would have been a very cool battle, but I'll take it."

Hamilton, who took his maiden victory in Montreal in 2007 and shares the record of seven wins there with Michael Schumacher, was delighted and hugged Antonelli who succeeded him at Mercedes.

"Finally, we found our sweet spot and had a good weekend. It's amazing to be back up here and I got to have a battle with Max, which was great. I am so happy, I love this track," said Hamilton.

McLaren misery

It was a dismal day for champions McLaren who made an error in tyre selection pre-race and then saw Oscar Piastri finish 11th while world champion Lando Norris retired with a gearbox failure.

The race began in cold, damp and drizzly conditions with a temperature of 12 degrees and the teams divided on tyre choice. McLarens and five others gambled on intermediates while Mercedes, Ferrari, Red Bull and five others chose softs and four picked mediums.

Norris led and then pitted to ditch his 'inters' as did Piastri and the rest while Antonelli inherited the lead.

Mercedes' teenage sensation Kimi Antonelli kisses the trophy after winning the Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal on Sunday. AFP

Grand double for Mumbai's Krish

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mumbai's Krish Gupta (Leapfrog Racing) notched a brilliant double, winning the Sprint and Feature races in the Senior Max class to move to the top of the leaderboard on conclusion of the second round of the Meco Meritus Cup karting championship at the Meco Kartopia on Sunday.

Aided by two podium finishes, including a win, Hyderabad's Shiv Tummala (Peregrine Racing) and MSPORT's Ayansh Patil from Kolhapur, grabbed the top spots in the Mini Max and Micro Max classes, respectively.

After two rounds, Krish leads Chennai's Shivaan Karthik (MSPORT) by nine points in the Senior category while Shiv Tummala has a one-point advantage over Bengaluru's Jishnu Seralathan (Peregrine Racing) and Ayansh is ahead of Rayo Racing's Aarav Sureka from Mumbai by two points.

Results: Meco Meritus Cup: Senior Max (Sprint Race 1, 14 laps): Krish Gupta (Mumbai, Leapfrog Racing) (12: 59.423), 1; Akshat Misra (Bengaluru, Peregrine Racing) (13:01.729) 2; Shivaan Karthik (Chennai, MSPORT) (13:12.455), 3.

Sprint Race 2 (15 laps): Krish Gupta (13:55.432), 1; Shivaan Karthik (14:04.415), 2; Ehsan Sayeed (Bengaluru, MSPORT) (14:05.485), 3.

Mini Max (Sprint Race 1, 9 laps): Shiv Tummala (Hyderabad, Peregrine Racing) (08:46.334), 1; Micah Hayden Andrews (Tirunelveli, Peregrine Racing) (08:49.375), 2; Jishnu Seralathan (Bengaluru, Peregrine Racing) (08:51.096), 3.

Sprint Race: 2 (12 laps): Jishnu Seralathan (11:39.280),1 ; Shiv Tummala (11:39.550), 2; Micah Hayden Andrews (11:42.165).

Micro Max (Sprint Race 1, 9 laps): Zidaan Arshaan Anees (Bengaluru, Peregrine Racing) (09:14.030), 1; Ayansh Patil (Kolhapur, MSPORT) (09:14.068), 2; Shriyan Rao Thakkalapelly (Hyderabad, Peregrine Racing) (09:24.800), 3.

Indian Karting Academy Trophy: Final Race (14 laps): Rivaan Dev Preetham (13:06.729), 1; Hridaan Sanadhya (Pune, Crest Motorsport) (13:14.481), 2; Rishik Rohit Reddy (13:15.430), 3.

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CRICKET

IPL: Qualifier 1: RCB vs GT **(7:30 pm). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

TENNIS

French Open: Day 3 **(2:30 pm). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, FanCode.**

Lakshya, Sindhu lead Indian challenge in Singapore Open

SINGAPORE, PTI

India's Lakshya Sen will kick off his Singapore Open Super 750 tournament against China's Lu Guang Zu. AFP

India's top shuttlers Lakshya Sen and PV Sindhu will look to regain consistency and end their title drought when they spearhead the country's challenge at the USD 1,000,000 Singapore Open Super 750 tournament beginning here on Tuesday.

Reigning Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya, who won the Australia Open last November, will hope to bounce back from last week's first-round exit and make a deep run when he opens his campaign against China's Lu Guang Zu. He had come close to winning a title at the All England Championships before finishing runner-up.

In women's singles, two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu, who reached the quarterfinals at the Thailand Open, will begin her campaign against Indonesia's fifth seed Putri Kusuma Wardani. The Indian has faced significant challenges maintaining her elite form following injuries in 2025, leading to a period of inconsistency and early exits in various BWF World Tour events.

Young Indian shuttler Ayush Shetty, who finished runner-up at the Asian Championships and played a key role in India's bronze medal-winning Thomas Cup campaign, will take on Canada's Victor Lai, last year's World Championships bronze medallist.

The focus will also be on India's two experienced campaigners, Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy, both 33, as they seek to rediscover consistency.

Former world No. 1 Srikanth will once again face local favourite Loh Kean Yew, the 2021 world champion whom he had defeated at the Thailand Open earlier this month.

Prannoy, a bronze medallist at the 2023 World Championships and Asian Games, faces a difficult opening-round contest against Indonesia's fifth seed Jonatan Christie.

Kibe brace seals Whitefield triumph

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kibe thang Yanthan's brace (37th and 60+3rd minute) powered FC White Field to a 3-1 victory over Football Aura in the KSFA C Division League Championships at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Monday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Manav V (38th) netted the winning goal after Kibe opened the scoring while Puneet Clivert Martis (38th) found the consolation goal for Aura.

Results: FC White Field: 3 (Kibe thang Yanthan 37th, 60+3rd, Manav VM 38th) bt Football Aura: 1 (Puneet Clivert Martis 38th); La Esperanza FC: 1 (Dhanush 17th) drew with Silican FC: 1 (Shubham Patwal 8th); Blue Star FC: 3 (Ahamed Swalih 7th, 37th, Shadab NS 25th) bt PKR FC: 0; Undisputed FC: 1 (Trak G Kandakur 2nd) drew with Velocita FC: 1 (Suhas 20th); Samurai Bangalore FA: 0 drew with Kodagu Colts FC: 0; Universal Blues FC: 1 (Alex 60th) drew with Blues FA: 1 (Sayooj MS 40th).

Yuvraj, Pallav hit hundreds in Coles CC victory

BENGALURU, DHNS

Yuvraj A (153 runs off 118) and Pallav Kumar Das (125 off 106) featured prominently in Coles Cricket Club's 166-run victory over Magadi Cricket Club in the KSCA YS Ramaswamy Memorial Trophy for Group I - I, II, III division and qualifiers from 4th and 5th division clubs.

The duo's big knocks took Coles to 382/5 in 50 overs while Magadi could only respond with 216/8. Goutham Mishra (5/25) crippled the chase with wickets at regular intervals.

Brief scores: Coles CC: 382/5 in 50 overs (Mayank Agarawal 27, Yuvraj A 153, Pallav Kumar Das 125, Gowtham Sagar 32 n.o.; Pradyumna AU 2-77, Eshwara Pandian 2-50) bt Magadi CC: 216/8 in 50 overs (Sashvith Somanna MR 34, Mann Bhati 80, Jayanth Krishnamurthy 25; Aditya Goyal 2-32, Goutham Mishra 5-25).

Bangalore Occasionals: 257/8 in 50 overs (Melu Kranthi Kumar 32, Suraj Ahuja 40, Rajvir Wadhwa 54, Dushyanth Venkat 57 n.o.; Vijay KA 3-39, Akshay Patil 2-50, Madhusudhan 2-43) bt Vijaya CC, Malur: 202 all out in 47 overs (Madhusudhan 26, Zeeshan Ali 39, Kalyanaram 27, Naveen MG 2-26, Shreesha S Achar 4-30).

Chamarajpet CC: 185 all out in 45 overs (Piyush Gohilot 27, Palaksha A 44; Aditya Rao 3-38, Dhruv Vasu 2-30, Ronak Yelwal 3-43) lt to Friends Union (1): 186/2 in 24.3 overs (Shishir R 63, Shivratana 76 n.o., Saideep HJ 35 n.o.)

Cambridge CC: 345/6 in 50 overs (Toufeeq S 76, Suhas R 47, Shubhang Hegde 121, Shubham Kumar Sinha 72; Darshan MB 3-65, Samarth Srinivas 2-78) lt to Mount Joy: 346/6 in 49.1 overs (Amogh R Shetty 44, Syaamantak Anirudh 41, Samarth Srinivas 101, Vinay Kumar Maski 68 n.o., Darshan MB 29 n.o., Advith M Shetty 2-49, Pranav Aswath 2-46).

Century Cricketers: 172 all out in 30.4 overs (Harsha Wardhan Khuba 39, Madhav P Bajaj 50; Pratik Singh 2-34, Karthik HN 2-58, Vineeth Manjunath 3-23) bt RVCE Gymkhana: 47 all out in 19.5 overs (Madhav P Bajaj 4-6, Malatesh M 5-24).

Malleswaram United: 79 all out in 25.2 overs (Bhimrao Navale 2-18, Shashikumar Kamble 3-24, Ronith Iyengar 2-10, Siddarth Krishnamurthy 2-3) lt to Swastic Union (1): 81/0 in 5.1 overs (Jasper EJ 36, Prakhar Chaturvedi 45 n.o).

Sapphire CC: 107 all out in 41 overs (Krishang Sangeeta Rao 25; Keerthi M 2-16, Vineeth B 2/27, Rohan M Yareshmi 5-10) lt to Dooravani Cricketers (1): 111/1 in 10 overs (Keerthi M 71 n.o.).

Bangalore United (1): 170 all out in 46.5 overs (Liyan Khan 82, Lavish Kaushal 26; Samit Dravid 4-19, Nathan D'Mello 2-35, Sachin Shinde 2-28) lt to Vijaya CC: 176/3 in 28.3 overs (Tushar Singh 103 n.o., Dhruv P 42 n.o.; Lavish Kaushal 2-28)

Spartons SC: 259 all out in 47.5 overs (Lakshmi Sagar 71, Virender Singh Aujla 43, Nishant Singh Shekawat 86; Ashutosh Khuba 3-19, Pradyumna Srivatsa 2-55, Shane Ryan 2-49, Vedanth Iyer 2-43) bt Jawahar SC (2): 251/9 in 50 overs (Rahul M 28, Naresh 54, Shatak Gunjal 52, Pradyumna Srivatsa 30, Shane Ryan 30, Shivohum Gupta 3-53).

Star SC, Nelamangala: 174 all out in 39.2 overs (Manjesh M 60; Shikhar Shetty 2-27, Abhishek Ahlawat 4-45) lt to Vultures CC: 178/4 in 22.4 overs (Srujan Nandan 33, CR Kumarswamy 70 n.o; Manjesh M 3-41).

Zodiac CC: 197 all out in 44.4 overs (Abhishek J 35, Shoheb Pasha 49; Dheeraj Kumar Yadav 4-53, Hari Rajiv 2-27, Durgam Bhargava 2-43) lt to Young Lions Club: 208/3 in 26.3 overs (Vinay Radha S 36, Hari Rajiv 107 n.o., Nikhil 29 n.o.; GV Umasankar 2-35).

Crescent CC (1) : 161 all out in 41 overs (Anoop Gandhi V 29, Sandeep Agri 26; Charan S Reddy 2-38, Ismail Mohtesham 2-31) lt to Neptune CC: 164/8 in 29.5 overs (Ved P 26, Shashank Reddy M 29; Abdul Bari 3-37, Vasanth Kumar 3-26)

Shreya, Mansi hammer HCC

BENGALURU, DHNS: Shreya B Pote remained unbeaten three short of a hundred while Mansi Satish More also registered a big fifty as Vijaya Cricket Club thrashed Herons Cricket Club by 139 runs in the KSCA Senior Women's T20 tournament here.

LOCAL CRICKET

Vijaya CC, batting first and riding on contributions from Shreya and Mansi (86), posted a competitive 216/1 in 20 overs.

Chasing a stiff target, Herons were restricted to 77/4 in 20 overs. Harshitha K stood out with figures of 2/8.

Brief scores: Vijaya Cricket Club: 216/1 in 20 overs (Mansi Satish More 86, Shreya B Pote 97 n.o.) bt Herons Cricket Club: 77/4 in 20 overs (Prarthana S 36 n.o.; Harshitha K 2-8).

City Gymkhana: 104/4 in 20.0 overs (Sanjana U 25, S Janya Madhuram 35 n.o.) lt to Rajajinagar Cricketers: 105/3 in 12.2 overs (Niki Prasad 38, Roshini Kiran 26).

Engrades Cricket Club: 83 all out in 19.5 overs (Subhra Majumder 2-11, Veda Varshini V 2-28, Nandani Chauhan 2-16) lt to Swastic Union Cricket Club (2): 86 for no loss in 7.3 overs (Rachitha Hatwar 45 n.o., Nandani Chauhan 35 n.o.)

Bangalore Sports Club: 156/4 in 20 overs (Shelina Laxmidas 62; Tanushree Prakash Ijeri 3-21) bt Visweswarapuram Cricket Club (2): 75 all out in 18.2 overs (Tanushree Prakash Ijeri 34; Harini R 3-16, Shelina Laxmidas 2-5).

Young Lions Club: 196/2 in 20 overs (Swati Venkatesh Karant 34, Pranathi KS 61) bt Sapphire Cricket Club: 121/3 in 20 overs (C Meghana Mahi 52, Ganavi Dev C 25 n.o.; Inchara K 2-7).

Vijaya Cricket Club, Malur: 145/2 in 20 overs (Prarthana B Gowda R 77 n.o., Avani Somshekhar Eklaspur 31 n.o.) bt Mount Joy Cricket Club: 118 all out in 19.2 overs (Aashna Shamsh Khan 2-27, Annika Krishna Naidu 4-21).

Yashas becomes India's 2nd fastest hurdler

Karnataka's Shivaji wins 5000m gold; Sinchal clinches silver in 400m

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Shivaji Parashuram

Yashas P

A day after breaching the Commonwealth Games qualification standards, Karnataka's Yashas P became India's fastest active 400m hurdler during the National Athletics Federation Competition in Ranchi on Monday.

The 24-year-old athlete clocked 49.00 seconds for gold on the final day of the event for the second-best time by an Indian hurdler behind long-time national record holder Dharun Ayyasamy (48.80 in 2019).

Yashas outran his long-time Tamil Nadu rival Santhosh Kumar T, who clocked 49.06 for the silver. The duo now remains in contention for the CWG squad, which remains subject to confirmation by the AFI.

Yashas was among the athletes to be ignored for the Karnataka government's Target Olympic Podium scheme, which offered select athletes Rs 10 lakh annually till the 2028 LA Olympics.

Meanwhile, Shivaji Parashuram grabbed the 5000m gold with an effort of 14:14.43.

State's women's 400m hurdler Sinchal Kaveramma (57.77) finished a distant second to joint national record holder Vithya Ramraj (56.61) while the duo missed out on the stiff CWG qualification mark of 54.67.

Karnataka high jumper Abhinaya S Shetty, representing JSW, took a bronze medal in the women's final with an attempt of 1.73, while UP's Khyati Mathur took the gold at 1.82.

Leading triple jumper Praveen Chithravel (Tamil Nadu) also went past the CWG mark with a jump of 17.08.

In the big upset of the day, MP's Samardeep Singh Gill outperformed two-time Asian Games champion Tajinderpal Singh Toor to claim the CWG berth from the men's shot put. Samardeep hurled the put to his career best of 20.46 metre while Punjab's Tajinderpal (20.07) fell way short of the CWG standard of 20.36.

The men's javelin final also saw a surprise result as youngster Shivam Lohakare threw the javelin to a personal best of 81.71m to claim the gold ahead of senior throwers Yashvir Singh (80.80) and Rohit Yadav (80.40).

Sachin Yadav, who outperformed Neeraj Chopra and Arshad Nadeem at the World Championships last year, continued with his slow start to the season as he finished fifth at 79.07. He is set for his Diamond League debut in Rome on June 4.

Results: Men: 200m: Animesh Kujur (Odi) 20.64, 1; Jishnu Prasad PK (Ker) 20.98, 2; Abhay Singh (Rel) 21.01, 3.
400m hurdles: Yashas P (Kar) 49.00, 1; Santhosh Kumar T (NCOT) 49.06, 2; Shubhas Das (Nav) 50.51, 3.
5000m: Shivaji Parashuram (Kar) 14:14.43, 1; Vinod Singh (MP) 14:15.50, 2; Deepak Bhatt 14:17.18, 3. **Javelin throw:** Shivam Lohakare (Mah) 81.71, 1; Yashvir Singh (Raj) 80.80, Rohit Yadav (Rai) 80.40, 3.
Triple jump: Praveen Chithravel (JSW) 17.08, 1; Abdulla Aboobacker (IAF) 16.63, 2; Gailey Venister (TN) 16.37
Shot put: Samardeep Singh Gill (MP) 20.46m, 1; Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Pun) 20.07, 2; Karanveer Singh (Pun) 19.38, 3.
Women: 200m: Kusum Thakur (HP) 23.94, 1; Tamanna (Har) 24.06, 2; Sudeshna Shivankar (Mah) 24.07, 3.
400m hurdles: R Vithya Ramraj (TN) 56.61, 1; Sinchal Kaveramma T (NCOB) 57.77, 2; Shravani Sangle (Mah) 59.73, 3.
High jump: Khyati Mathur (UP) 1.82, 1; Manshi (Rai) 1.80, 2; Abhinaya S Shetty (JSW) 1.73m
Heptathlon: Anamika KA (Ker) 5685 pts, 1; Pooja (JSW) 5632, 2; Khushi (Har) 5435, 3.

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

"I'm never one to back down. When the team is down, when the team is struggling, it's very important to show your character at that time.

AJINKYA RAHANE
KKR CAPTAIN

IT'S RCB BATTING VS GT BOWLING

KEY PLAYERS **ROYAL CHALLENGERS BENGALURU** RECENT FORM (latest result first): L, W, W, W, L

VIRAT KOHLI

The batting talisman, despite having retired from internationals in two formats, still remains the same force he was during his peak. With four fifties and a century, Kohli has led the batting with gusto and his experience in chases has proven to be priceless.

BHUVNESHWAR KUMAR

Bhuvneshwar has proved his doubters wrong, yet again, with an exceptional season. As an opening pacer, not only has he consistently delivered wickets at the start but with an economy rate of 8.07, the 36-year-old has been top-notch at the death too.

KEY PLAYERS **GUJARAT TITANS** Recent form (latest result first): W, W, W, L, W

SAI SUDHARSAN

The opener has been batting like a dream for a third straight season, amassing 638 runs with seven fifties and a century. Five of those half-centuries have been consecutive, showing the irresistible touch the southpaw has been in. If he gets going, RCB could be in for a leather hunt.

KAGISO RABADA

The South African pacer has been at his menacing best this season with 24 scalps in 14 games. He's been fast and aggressive, standing apart amongst a handful of bowlers who have done well where scores over 200 have been scored with remarkable ease.

RCB runs at various stages in 2026

55.2% Top 3 Runs | **38.6%** Middle Order Runs | **6.2%** Lower Order Runs

STRENGTHS

The Royal Challengers have one of the most balanced units in the IPL. In terms of batting, Virat Kohli (557 runs), Devdutt Padikkal (433), Rajat Patidar (393) and Tim David (277) have fired consistently, while Bhuvneshwar Kumar (24 wickets), Rasikh Dar (14), Josh Hazlewood (12) and Krunal Pandya (11) have delivered with the ball.

WEAKNESS

Although bowling no longer an Achilles heel for RCB, it still stands exposed when strike bowlers Bhuvneshwar and Hazlewood fail to make early inroads. Rasikh, Krunal and Suyash Sharma (9) have shone when Bhuvneshwar and Hazlewood have got breakthroughs but struggled to make an impact when lead acts have come under the pump.

Table toppers clash today in Qualifier 1 for a place in the final

SIDNEY KIRAN
DHARAMSALA, DHNS

Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Gujarat Titans, two well-oiled machines that have churned out consistently good cricket over the last two months, will be looking to crank up the gears in the foothills of the Himalayas when they lock horns in what promises to be an engaging Qualifier 1 here on Tuesday.

Be it solid top-order batting, a strong bowling attack, or the temperament to nick games when pressure rises in a highly competitive and exhaustive tournament, both RCB and GT have displayed the necessary tactical nous to stay steady in the playoffs' race before rising above the chasing pack smoothly to give themselves two shots at making the title clash.

Starting off with defending champions Royal Challengers, who have looked determined right from the onset to add more lustre to the halo that dawned upon them on a magical night last June, everything that worked so beautifully last season has continued this year too.

Former captain Virat Kohli, who has adapted beautifully to changing nature of T20 batting while retaining his aggressive self, is the leading run scorer (557) with four half-centuries and one ton. Opening the batting, the 37-year-old has balanced fire with ice in good measure to constantly lay a strong foundation for the middle-order to flourish. In chases especially, he's looked every bit the 'King Kohli', calculating the approach superbly like a supercomputer.

Middle-order batters Devdutt Padikkal (433) and Rajat Patidar (393) have chipped in nicely, while Tim David (277) has upped his game as a finisher. On an odd day when the batters have failed, RCB have found saviours in Krunal Pandya and even Bhuvneshwar Kumar, whose fourth-ball six in the final over won a thriller against Mumbai Indians.

LIVE 7:30 PM, STAR SPORTS

The 36-year-old Bhuvneshwar, in fact, has been RCB's Most Valuable Player (MVP) this season, bagging 24 wickets. His wickets right at the start have wrecked oppositions; his simple yet effective bowling leaving most batters bamboozled. Bhuvneshwar has been supported well by the seasoned Josh Hazlewood. Add the performance of veteran spinner Krunal and RCB have got their bases covered on the bowling front too, which had been their Achilles heel for the longest of times.

The Titans too have similar strengths. At the top, Sai Sudharsan is enjoying another remarkable season with 638 runs along with Shubman Gill (616). The duo are by no means hell-for-leather batters that modern T20 cricket demands, but they've shown old-school style is not passe with intelligent stroke-making and innings-pacing. And like last season, one-drop Jos Buttler (469) has backed up Sudharsan and Gill with his potent power-hitting.

On the bowling front, the Titans have perhaps the best attack. Pacers Kagiso Rabada (24), Mohammed Siraj (17) and Prasidh Krishna (14) have been on the mark, while ace spinner Rashid Khan (19) has rediscovered his mojo to show class in permanent and form is temporary. Add Jason Holder's (13) heroics to the mix, then GT have little to worry about. The only cause for concern is the middling form of middle and lower order batters. If the top-order fails, then GT could be in a spot.

The picturesque venue has been a paradise for batters this season with teams surpassing 200 five times in six matches with the lowest score being 199/8. Tuesday promises to be another belter.

STRENGTHS

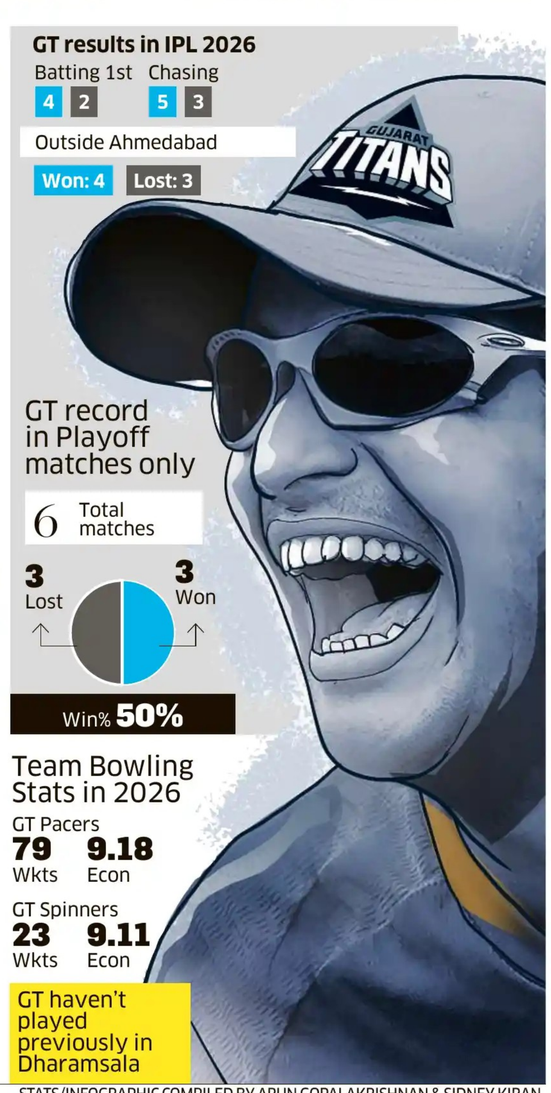
It has been their top-three batters and top-three bowlers who have been instrumental to their success. Openers Sai Sudharsan (638) and Shubman Gill (616) have been excellent again, while one-drop Jos Buttler (469) has provided the necessary fire. Similarly, in bowling, lead pacers Kagiso Rabada (24) and Mohammed Siraj (17) have breathed fire, while spinner Rashid Khan (19) has rediscovered his mojo.

WEAKNESS

Although the top-order is doing most of the heavy lifting, a big worry for GT is the middling form of the middle-order and finishers. While spinning all-rounder Washington Sundar has scored 303 runs, Rahul Tewatia (98), Jason Holder (58), and Shahrukh Khan (43) have flattered to deceive.

GT runs at various stages in 2026

69.4% Top 3 Runs | **27.3%** Middle Order Runs | **3.3%** Lower Order Runs



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

STATS/INFOGRAPHIC COMPILED BY ARUN GOPALAKRISHNAN & SIDNEY KIRAN

Powerplay bowling crucial vs GT: Patidar

SIDNEY KIRAN,
DHARAMSALA, DHNS

The Qualifier 1 between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Gujarat Titans is what you call a perfect battle of equals. Both teams are evenly matched in batting and bowling, and even in the head-to-head record, hardly anything separates the two one-time champions. The record is 4-4 overall and 1-1 this season.

RCB skipper Rajat Patidar, exuding a quiet confidence on the eve of the clash at the picturesque HPCA Stadium, reckoned the team that holds the nerve better under pressure will be able to punch the direct ticket to the final.

"Both the teams have done pretty well throughout the season. Both the teams are equally good. On the given day, who will execute their plan better, who will play better cricket, who will be calm under pressure, I think that team is going to win the match. So, we have to be calm under pressure. Of course, it is a big stage, Qualifier 1. But we have to just hold our nerves and be confident whatever we are doing," said Patidar at the pre-match press conference.

Rajat Patidar

Gujarat Titans' assistant coach Vijay Dahiya, looking relaxed much like the locals here in this tourist place, echoed Patidar's thoughts. "It's going to be a battle. We have met twice in this edition and it's 1-1. Both of them are good sides. You can say that they are equally matched, some big players on both sides. And both the teams play as a unit, and I think that's what stands out about both the teams."

Patidar felt a strong bowling performance in the Powerplay, given how strong GT's top-order batting is, will be very crucial to RCB's success.

"The way we bowl in the Powerplay, I think that will be very crucial. And everyone in the team knows that we are not here to defend. We are here with the mindset of attacking. So we will look for early wickets. And that's what we have done so far. So, doing the same thing again and again, I think it will make a difference. That's what Bhuvi (Bhuvneshwar Kumar), (Josh) Hazlewood and Rasikh (Dar) will be looking to do."

Last season, RCB shot out Punjab Kings for 101 in Qualifier 1 and then scaled down the target in 10 overs soar into their fourth final before annexing the title for the first time. Patidar said his men are looking forward to replicating the same.

"It's pretty obvious, when you finish top two, you get only one match and if you win, you can straight away go to the finals. That is the chat going on. It's not Qualifier 1, from the beginning of the season, we just wanted to win matches. Everyone is looking forward to it and we are here to win every match. We are here to win Qualifier 1 and go straight away to the final."

PITCH

The surface at the HPCA Stadium has been a batting paradise with teams surpassing 200 five times in the three matches played this season with the lowest being 199/8. So expect another batting beauty on Tuesday.

WEATHER

While rain is not broadly predicted for Tuesday, there is a slight chance (around 15% to 25%) of brief afternoon showers. A mostly sunny and warm day is expected with temperatures reaching a high of around 21* C.

Salt yet to be fit, Venky to open

SIDNEY KIRAN
DHARAMSALA, DHNS

In all likelihood, it appears Royal Challengers Bengaluru opener Phil Salt could miss the Qualifier 1 clash against Gujarat Titans as he continues his recovery from a finger injury, with Venkatesh Iyer set to do the job alongside Virat Kohli.

"Talking about Salt, he's fit and doing the drills, but he's under observation. We haven't decided on our playing XI yet. We will look at the wicket and decide," said RCB skipper Rajat Patidar on the eve of the match.

The dangerous Salt last played for RCB against Delhi Capitals on April 18 before hurting his finger and flying to England for recovery. Since then, Salt has rejoined the RCB camp. In Salt's absence, his compatriot Jacob Bethell partnered with Kohli, but the youngster too has been rendered hors de combat after hurting his finger in the match against Punjab Kings in Dharamsala on May 17.

RCB, however, have little to fret because Venkatesh has stepped up brilliantly whenever summoned. After scoring an unbeaten 73 batting at No. 4 against Punjab Kings, Venkatesh blasted 44 off just 19 balls in the final league game.

Spain name World Cup squad without Real players

MADRID, AFP: Lamine Yamal leads Spain's squad for the 2026 World Cup named by coach Luis de la Fuente on Monday, which also included Arsenal midfielder Mikel Merino after his recent return from injury.

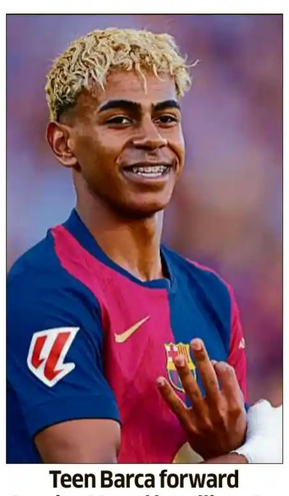
For the first time at a World Cup, the Spain squad will not feature a Real Madrid player with Dean Huijsen dropped and veteran Dani Carvajal also excluded after struggling through an injury-hit campaign.

Merino, a favourite of coach De la Fuente, appeared as a substitute for the Gunners against Crystal Palace on Sunday in their final Premier League match, for his first appearance since January after a foot fracture.

De La Fuente also called up defenders Eric Garcia and Marc Pubill after impressive seasons with Barcelona and Atletico Madrid respectively, deciding to leave out Huijsen and Atletico's Robin Le Normand.

Along with teenager Barca star Yamal, Athletic Bilbao's Nico Williams played a key role as Spain won Euro 2024 and he is in the squad despite a season badly disrupted by fitness issues.

Yamal, 18, is a doubt for the first matches of the tournament after suffering a hamstring injury with Barca which has kept him out since late April.



Teen Barca forward Lamine Yamal headlines La Roja at the FIFA World Cup in North America.

Squad: Goalkeepers: Unai Simon, David Raya, Joan Garcia. **Defenders:** Marcos Llorente, Marc Pubill, Pedro Porro, Aymeric Laporte, Eric Garcia, Pau Cubarsi, Marc Cucurella, Alejandro Grimaldo. **Midfielders:** Rodri, Martin Zubimendi, Mikel Merino, Pedri, Gavi, Fabian Ruiz, Alex Baena. **Forwards:** Yeremy Pino, Victor Munoz, Mikel Oyarzabal, Ferran Torres, Lamine Yamal, Dani Olmo, Nico Williams, Borja Iglesias.

Upbeat India ready for Aus challenge

PERTH, PTI: The Indian women's hockey team would look to kickstart its preparations for the FIH Nations Cup on a positive note when it takes on Australia in the four-match series starting here on Tuesday.

The Salima Tete-led side will aim to build vital momentum ahead of the crucial FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup to be held in Auckland from June 15 to 21.

Fresh from an encouraging display in Argentina earlier this year, where India drew the four-match series 2-2 against the world No. 2 side after losing the first two matches, the visiting team enters this tour with confidence.

The squad spent the last few weeks grinding through high-intensity tactical drills at the national training camp in SAI Bengaluru, which helped the players sharpen their skills, structural play, penalty corner variations and overall match fitness under the watchful eyes of chief coach Sjoerd Marijne.

India captain Salima said the players are upbeat about the tour. "The entire squad is really looking forward to this tour. Playing against Australia, is always a tough challenge," she said.

Head, wife Jessica suffer online abuse after Kohli spat

Instagram accounts of both are flooded with abusive comments by fans

SYDNEY, AFP

Travis Head and his wife Jessica have been subjected to a barrage of online abuse after the Australian cricketer was embroiled in a spat with India great Virat Kohli during an Indian Premier League match.

The players clashed during the T20 match between Head's Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kohli's Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Friday.

Heated words were exchanged between the two before Kohli was dismissed for 15 and his team slumped to a 55-run defeat.

As the two sets of players lined up for the post-game handshakes, Kohli ignored Head's outstretched arm but shook hands with the other players.

The Instagram accounts for Head and Jessica have since been flooded with abusive comments, apparently from fans of the former India captain.

SRH's Travis Head (above) was involved in a spat with RCB's Virat Kohli during an IPL match in Hyderabad last Friday.

Jessica told The Advertiser newspaper that her friends and family had also received hateful private messages.

"I woke up to my socials blasting... we are fine but they are attacking my friends and family," she said Monday, according to the reports.

"Passion will always be part of sport, but so is remembering there are real people and families behind the game.

"Hopefully this encourages more kindness, and support for one another."

She also said it felt like "a repeat of the abuse that happened after the World Cup", referring to the 2023 50-over tournament when Australia beat hosts India in the final while Head played a pivotal knock in Ahmedabad.

Rishab, Arnav share top honours

BENGALURU, DHNS

EIRS' Rishab Kadam, astride Hero, and Zippy Equestrian's Arnav Navaratna, astride Vedette, jointly secured first place in the Show Jumping – 110/120 cm event in the Karnataka State Equestrian Competition at the Embassy International Riding School here.

The competition saw riders from EIRS dominating several events as Zoya emerged as one of the standout performers after clinching top honours in both the Preliminary Dressage Test (D4) and Pre-Novice Dressage Test (D5). Nikshita and Hem Kilaru also impressed by securing podium finishes in multiple categories.

Results: Introductory Dressage Test (D3): Ira Anuj Singhal (Zippy), 1; Mustafa (EIRS), 2; Aravindh A (EIRS), 3.
Preliminary Dressage Test (D4): Zoya (EIRS), 1; Kripa (EIRS), 2; Kesar Bafna (FSS), 3.
Pre-Novice Dressage Test (D5): Zoya (EIRS), 1; Nikshita (EIRS), 2; Tanush (EIRS), 3.
Novice Dressage Test (D6): Kiara (EIRS), 1; Eshaan Sundaram (EIRS), 2; Hem Kilaru (EIRS), 3.
Show Jumping Events (KSEC): 60 cm (SJ2): Jay (Saddlebrook), 1; Manil Rao (FSS), 2; Mahesh (Saddlebrook), 3.
80 cm (SJ3): Bhargav (EIRS), 1; Mishika (EIRS), 2; Manil Rao (FSS), 3.
100 cm (SJ4): Nikshita (EIRS), 1; Hem Kilaru (EIRS), 2; Kripa (EIRS) and Bhargav (EIRS), 3.
110/120 cm (SJ6): Rishab Kadam (EIRS) and Arnav Navaratna (Zippy), 1; Samarth Nayak (REA), 3.
Follow the Leader – Dressage (D2): Vishrut Ghosh (REA), 1.

Rishab Kadam, astride Hero, shared top honours in the 110/120 cm Show Jumping event at the Karnataka State Equestrian Competition.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com

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